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London Bird Report

2000

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London Natural History Society

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New members, beginners and experts alike, are welcomed. An extensive programme of lectures and field meetings is provided throughout the year. As well as the annual *London Bird Report*, the Society publishes a journal, *The London Naturalist*, each year and a Newsletter and Ornithological Bulletin every second month. Members have access to a large lending and reference library of natural history books and can join one or more of several reading circles which circulate many natural history journals at a fraction of the cost of subscribing direct.

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London Bird Report for 2000

edited by Andrew Self

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Line Drawings by Ken Osborne

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London Bird Report for 2000

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* Papers for future years should be submitted to Mike Trier

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the London Bird Report for 2000. Unfortunately this report has taken considerably longer to produce than was expected, this was due to technical troubles at the beginning followed by a lack of spare time. I would particularly like to thank everyone who has worked on the production of the LBR as I know how hard it is to find sufficient time to do this when there are so many other commitments. We hope that future LBRs will not take as long to produce but we do rely on getting sufficient volunteers to help with all stages of production. If you'd like to help out then please get in touch with myself or David Darrell-Lambert.

I'd also like to thank Patricia Brown who stands down as Papers Editor and to welcome Mike Trier who has now taken over. There's also a change in Middlesex Recorder, and I'd like to thank Steve Connor for all the hard work he's put in (while still having found the time to break the London Yearlist record twice!), and in preparation for his move to Norfolk, Steve has now handed over to Rob Innes.

Thanks also to Jan Hewlett who has been helpful with ideas on how to progress production of the LBR.

During the course of writing this LBR we heard the very sad news that Ken Osborne had passed away. Ken was a former editor of the LBR as well as being Inner London Recorder for many years and was still on the Records Committee until the time of his death. Ken was a prolific illustrator and as a tribute to his great involvement in the London Bird Reports all the illustrations in this year's LBR are Ken's.

The 2000 birding year in London was most memorable for the unprecedented influx of Honey Buzzards in the autumn, and a paper detailing this unique event can be found on page 91. There were also two firsts for London: Franklin's Gull and Radde's Warbler.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

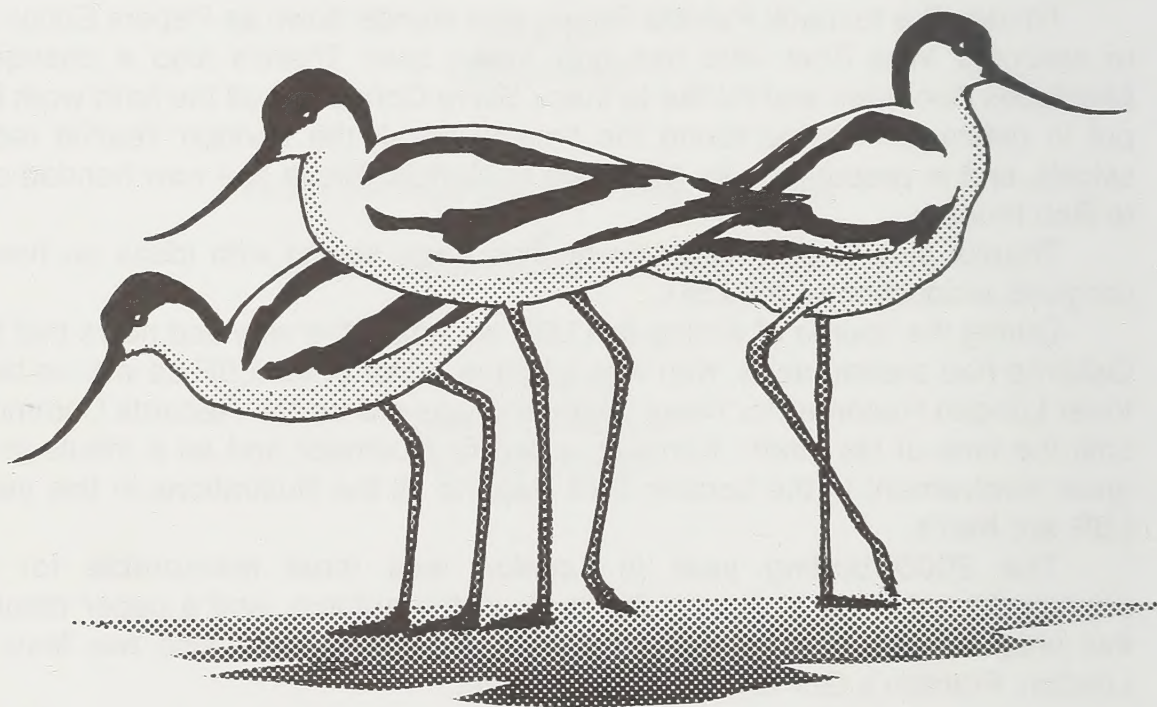
On behalf of the Records Committee, it is my pleasure to thank a record number of 525 observers who contributed records for this issue of the London Bird Report.

Photographs have been kindly provided by Leo Batten, Roy Beddard, David Darrell-Lambert, L. Ibbitson, Andrew Self and John Simpson.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, for the time-consuming task of checking through the species accounts in the systematic list and for providing invaluable comments and corrections at the draft stage as well as their responses to my requests for information; to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to members; and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

Birdguides
Birdline South East
British Birds Rarities Committee
Buckinghamshire Bird Club
Essex Birdwatching Society
Hertfordshire Natural History Society
Kent Ornithological Society
Surrey Bird Club

Andrew Self
May 2004



KEN OSBORNE

Records Committee

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Recording Arrangements

The area covered by this Report, conventionally known as 'the London Area', is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, Watsonian vice-counties are used in this Report instead of the present administrative areas (but note that vice-counties 18 and 19, South and North Essex, are lumped together as Essex). The vice-county boundaries are shown on the map of the Area which follows. There is also a special recording zone for Inner London. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square, which covers parts of Middx, Surrey and, just, Kent. **A detailed Map of the Area together with a Gazetteer of Sites appears on pages 7 to 15.**

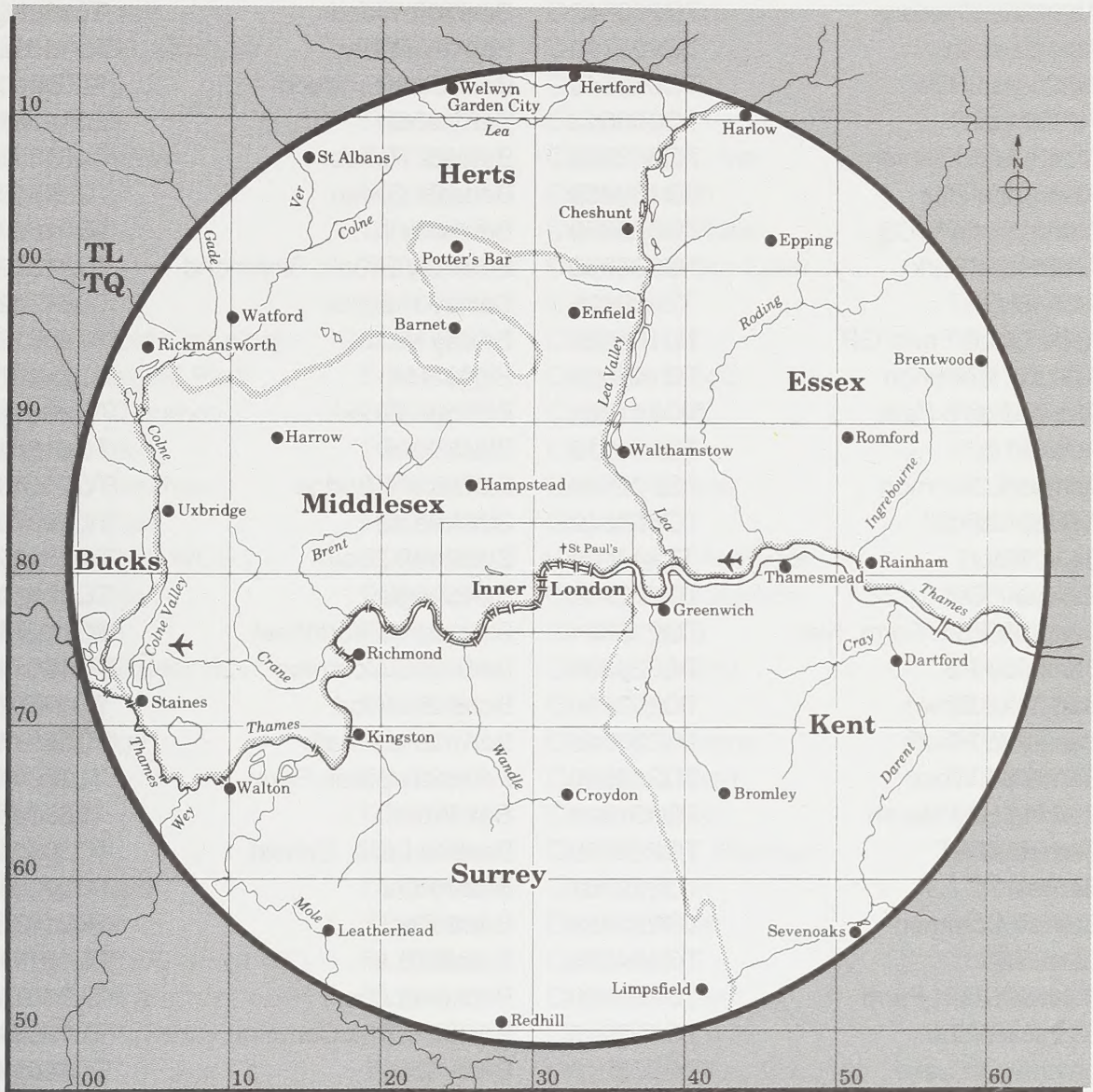
The names used in this Report for certain sites are not shown on, or differ from those on, Ordnance Survey maps. Please consult the Gazetteer of Sites if in any doubt. It would be helpful if these names could be used by observers when submitting records. A National Ordnance Survey Grid Reference should be given in any difficult or doubtful case.

All records of interest are welcome, from LNHS members and non-members alike. These include information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on migration (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations and notes on behaviour and on the occurrence of unusual birds. Many of the passerines, in particular, are under-recorded. Regular reports from the same localities are invaluable in assessing population trends; such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. **A guide for contributors of records is published in this report on pages 244 to 247.** Records should be sent to the appropriate recorder listed on page 5 or, if in doubt, to the LBR Editor.

It will greatly assist the speedy entering of records if the Society's recording sheets are used. These are available from any of the Recorders or the Editor on request. Species should be listed in Voous sequence as used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area. Completed recording sheets for the period January to July should be submitted in August and for the period August to December in early January of the following year.

Records of nationally rare species should be submitted via the local Recorder to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee as soon as possible after the sighting. Breeding records of rare species should be sent via the local Recorder to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence.

Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are examined by the LNHS Records Committee before inclusion in the London Bird Report. Therefore, please complete and submit a LNHS Unusual Species Description Form (available from the Recorders or the Editor) or a brief description/copy of your field notes for these species. Please submit these as soon as possible after the sighting. **Species for which a full description or brief description/field notes are required are evident from the 'guide to contributors' at the back of this report.**



Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer is not intended to include every single site mentioned in the LBR and omits obvious place names of towns and villages. It does however, seek to identify the whereabouts of productive ornithological sites, well known or otherwise. It is intended to keep this up to date in each future issue of the LBR. Each site name is followed by a six figure Ordnance Survey Grid Reference enabling sites to be pinpointed on the map above. The Grid Reference number either refers to the centre of the site or a point of particular ornithological interest. Readers should note that the inclusion of a site in this gazetteer does not imply public access; indeed some are strictly private or access is by permit only.

There has been considerable confusion caused in the past by contributors of records using inconsistent and unfamiliar place names and we would urge all contributors to use the names listed in this gazetteer whenever appropriate. In doubtful cases, please submit the record along with an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference number.

Aberdare Gardens	TQ260842	Bencroft Wood	TL330064
Acton Green	TQ204790	Bentley Priory	TQ155927
Addington Hills	TQ353643	Berrybushes Wood	TL069007
Addlestone	TQ056643	Berrylands	TQ192674
Albert Embankment	TQ303783	Berwick Ponds	TQ543835
Aldenham Res	TQ169955	Bessels Green	TQ505555
Alderbourne WCB	TQ029850	Betchworth	TQ218505
Alexandra Park	TQ302900	Beverley Brook, Richmond	TQ213726
Amwell GP	TL380125	Bexley Hospital	TQ513727
Apps Court Farm GP	TQ165625	Bexley Wood	TQ483737
Arbrook Common	TQ145630	Biggin Hill	TQ457572
Archbishop's Park	TQ241761	Bishops Wood	TQ066920
Ashford	TQ070715	Black Park	TQ010836
Ashtead Common	TQ175595	Blackfriars Bridge	TQ317807
Aveley Landfill	TQ558812	Blackheath	TQ390766
Balls Wood	TL344106	Blackwall Basin	TQ381802
Banbury Res	TQ362915	Bletchingley	TQ326506
Bangors Park Farm, Iver	TQ035824	Blue Lake, Northfleet	TQ622737
Bankside PS	TQ320806	Bookham Common	TQ130565
Banstead Down	TQ252610	Borehamwood	TQ195975
Banstead Heath	TQ235545	Bowman's Heath	TQ518738
Banstead Wood	TQ260560	Bowmansgreen Farm	TL189041
Barking Bay/Marsh	TQ451816	Box Wood	TL353096
Barnes WWT	TQ228770	Boxer's Lake, Enfield	TQ305962
Barnes	TQ222761	Brent Park	TQ240889
Barnes Common	TQ222758	Brent Res	TQ215870
Barn Hill	TQ194874	Brentford Ait	TQ187778
Barwell Court Farm	TQ170630	Brickendonbury	TL330104
Barrack Wood	TQ597915	Bricket Wood/Common	TL130010
Batchworth Lake	TQ058940	Brimsdown	TQ368970
Batler's Green	TL158985	Brixton Hill	TQ306734
Battersea PS	TQ270770	Broad Colney Fields	TL180030
Battersea Park	TQ282772	Broad Colney Lakes	TL178034
Bayford	TL310084	Broadgate EC2	TQ334817
Bayhurst Wood	TQ065892	Broadwater Lake	TQ045892
Bealieu Heights Wood	TQ334696	Brockwell Park	TQ316740
Beckenham Place Park	TQ385705	Bromley Common	TQ415655
Beddington Corner	TQ281668	Brompton Cemetery	TQ258777
Beddington Park	TQ292654	Brooklands	TQ068620
Beddington SF	TQ290662	Brookmans Park	TL253038
Bedfont Lakes/GP	TQ078726	Broomfield Park	TQ304927
Bedford Park	TQ210791	Broxbourne GP	TL379078
Bedfords Park	TQ518925	Broxbourne Woods	TL340080
Beech Farm GP	TL190086	Bruce Castle Park	TQ336908
Belair Park	TQ328733	Brunswick Park	TQ331769
Bell Wharf, Harefield	TQ052866	Buckhurst Hill GP	TQ425934
Bell Lance Fields	TL198040	Buckland SP	TQ227510
Belvedere PS	TQ499808	Buckland, Rectory Lane	TQ219513

Bugsby's Reach	TQ398798	Coldfall Wood	TQ276903
Bully Point NR, Stratford	TQ374839	Cole Green	TL282114
Bulphan Fen	TQ633864	Colindale	TQ210900
Burgess Park	TQ335778	Colnbrook	TQ025775
Burhill Allotments	TQ115635	Colne Brook, Iver	TQ042813
Burnt Oak	TQ205912	Colney Heath	TL205062
Burwood Park	TQ100644	Connaught Water	TQ404933
Bury Lake	TQ053938	Coopers Green Lane	TL193098
Bushy Park	TQ160690	Coopersale	TQ480025
Camberwell Old Cemetery	TQ348742	Copped Hall	TL430010
Camley St Natural Park	TQ298836	Coppetts Wood	TQ277916
Cannon Hill Common	TQ238683	Copse Wood	TQ085897
Cannons Park	TQ182915	Corbets Tey	TQ577851
Carshalton Beeches	TQ272638	Cornmill Meads	TL380011
Cassiobury Park	TQ090970	Coulsdon	TQ296593
Cassiobury Park WCB	TQ090968	Coursers Lane Fields	TL200040
Chalfont Lodge	TQ894899	Court Lane, Dulwich	TQ336739
Chalfont Park	TQ013896	Cowley Lake	TQ052814
Chandlers Hill, Iver Hth	TQ035834	Cowley Peachy	TQ054814
Charlton GP	TQ087692	Crane Park	TQ126730
Chelsea Bridge	TQ286778	Cranley Gardens	TQ289890
Chelsfield	TQ482642	Crayford Marsh	TQ532775
Chelsham	TQ373589	Crayford Ness	TQ532781
Chertsey	TQ043664	Creekmouth, Barking	TQ457814
Chertsey Meads	TQ060662	Crews Hill	TQ312000
Cheshunt GP	TL370030	Croham Hurst	TQ337632
Cheshunt GP (70 Acres GP)	TL874030	Crossness	TQ478815
Cheshunt GP (Bowyer's GP)	TL368018	Crossness East	TQ492809
Cheshunt GP (Friday Lake)	TL371020	Crouch End	TQ298885
Cheshunt GP (Police Pit)	TL371025	Crouch End Rec Ground	TQ295881
Cheshunt GP (North Met GP)	TL369033	Croxley Green	TQ070955
Cheshunt Marsh	TL367018	Croxley Hall GPs	TQ068943
Cheshunt Park Farm	TL355046	Croxley Moor	TQ065956
Chevening	TQ488577	Crystal Palace Park	TQ347707
Chigwell Res	TQ460937	Cuddington Golf Club	TQ239615
Chipstead Lake	TQ505565	Cuffley	TL303030
Chiswell Green	TQ125047	Curtismill Green	TQ519965
Chiswick Eyot	TQ219779	Dagenham Chase	TQ514858
Chorleywood Common	TQ033963	Dagenham Corridor	TQ495875
City Road Basin, Islington	TQ322830	Dagnam Park	TQ550933
Clackett Lane Services	TQ425544	Danson Park	TQ473748
Clapton Common	TQ342878	Darenth Lake	TQ559710
Clay Tye Wood	TQ595587	Darenth Valley Walk	TQ560704
Claybury	TQ435913	Darenth Wood	TQ580727
Claygate Common	TQ161632	Darlands Lake	TQ243943
Claygate Green	TQ157637	Dartford Heath	TQ516733
Clissold Park	TQ332867	Dartford Marsh	TQ544774
Cobbins Brook	TL409018	Dartford Marsh Pig Farm	TQ539769

Deephams SF	TQ360937	Farlowes Lake	TQ047810
Delaford Park	TQ043818	Farringdon	TQ316818
Denham Aerodrome	TQ033887	Fernyhill Farm, Enfield	TQ282981
Denham CP	TQ048865	Field Common GP	TQ128671
Denham Quarry Lake	TQ045870	Finsbury Circus	TQ312816
Denham GC	TQ027883	Finsbury Park	TQ317875
Denham Marsh Farm	TQ020884	Fishers Green	TL376044
Denham Mount	TQ028874	Fitzroy Square	TQ294823
Denham Place	TQ040873	Foots Cray Meadows	TQ480715
Denham Station	TQ042878	Foots Cray Woods	TQ479721
Denham Village	TQ040870	Forster Park	TQ387722
Desborough Island	TQ084664	Forty Hall, Enfield	TQ337987
Dews Farm Lake	TQ053878	Frays Carp Lake	TQ054865
Ditton Field	TQ157679	Frays Meadow, Uxbridge	TQ057853
Dobbs Weir	TL384043	Frays Middle Lake	TQ056866
Dog Kennel Covert	TQ103783	Frays Northern Lake	TQ056868
Downe Barns Farm	TQ105841	Friern Barnet	TQ280925
Dulwich College	TQ329736	Frogmore GP, Radlett	TL150033
Dulwich Golf Course	TQ339728	Furzefield Wood	TL103055
Dulwich Mill Pond	TQ333731	Gatton Park/Lake	TQ271525
Dulwich Park	TQ335735	Gernon Bushes	TL490085
Dulwich Upper Wood	TQ339729	Gladwin's Wood	TQ019864
Dulwich Village	TQ334739	Godstone SP	TQ345518
Dulwich Woods	TQ340725	Golders Green	TQ245883
Durant's Park, Ponders End	TQ357968	Grays	TQ610773
Eagle Pond	TQ390884	Grays Chalk Pits	TQ609788
Easneye Wood	TL385137	Great Amwell	TL368122
East India Dock Basin	TQ391808	Great Halings Wood	TQ032895
East Iver Lakes	TQ047804	Great Soloms Wood, Banstead	TQ272588
Edgwarebury Park	TQ190934	Great Warley	TQ583907
Elmbridge Leisure Centre	TQ107678	Greenhill Wood, Shoreham	TQ538602
Enfield Golf Course	TQ313962	Greenhithe	TQ585753
Enfield Lock	TQ368982	Green Park	TQ290800
Enfield Town Park	TQ326963	Greenwich Park	TQ390775
Epping Forest	TQ420985	Grovelands Park	TQ305944
Epping Upland	TL430050	Gunnorsbury Triangle NR	TQ201787
Epsom Common	TQ190605	Gutteridge Wood	TQ091843
Epsom Downs	TQ211580	Haberdashers' Girls Sch'l	TL170965
Erith Marsh	TQ488805	Hadley Common	TQ265972
Erith Reach	TQ500788	Hainault Forest	TQ476932
Esher Common	TQ135625	Hall Marsh	TL373017
Essendon	TL274087	Hall Place Gardens	TQ505743
Essex Filter Beds	TQ363868	Ham Lands	TQ165725
Ewell	TQ217624	Hampermill Lake	TQ095942
Eynsford	TQ540655	Hampstead Heath	TQ273866
Fairmile Common	TQ125617	Hampton	TQ133700
Fairlop Lake/Plain	TQ458459	Hampton Court Park	TQ166676
Farleigh	TQ367602	Hampton Hill	TQ150712

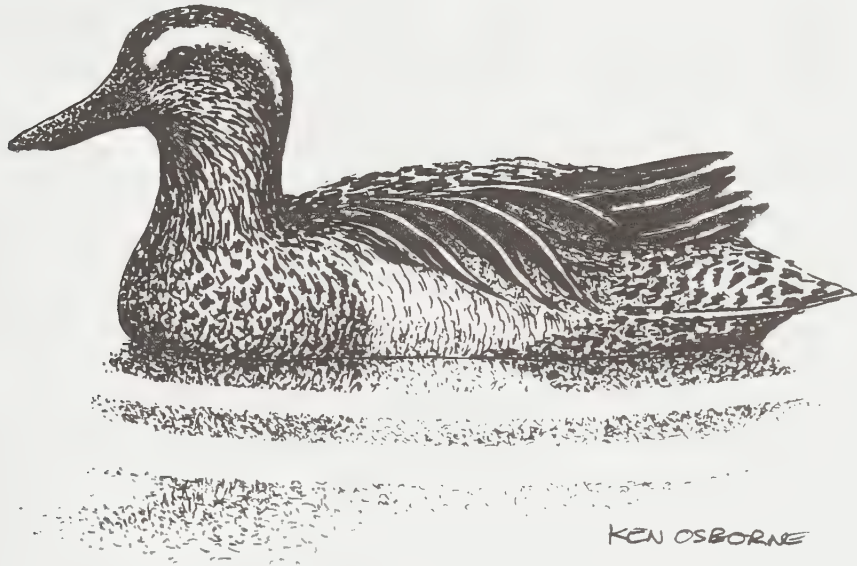
Hampton Waterworks	TQ127686	Hooks Marsh	TL373023
Hampton Wick	TQ175699	Hornchurch CP	TQ535825
Hanworth	TQ120718	Horton CP	TQ190627
Harefield	TQ050900	Horton Fields	TQ015764
Harmondsworth GP	TQ050779	Horton GP	TQ005753
Harold Wood SF	TQ565915	Horton Kirby	TQ565686
Harrow School	TQ157870	Hounslow Heath	TQ123745
Harrow Weald	TQ150910	Howell Hill, Ewell	TQ238621
Hartnips Wood	TQ547637	Hunston Mead	TL422114
Hatch End	TQ130914	Hunton Bridge Hill	TL076006
Hatfield Aerodrome	TL210090	Huntsmoor Park	TQ047815
Hatfield Park	TL240080	Hyde Park	TQ270803
Hatherop Park	TQ124704	Hythe	TQ020718
Havering CP	TQ505930	Ingrebourne Valley	TQ538843
Hawk's Wood	TQ014862	Island Barn Res	TQ140670
Hawkshead Wood	TQ220030	Isleworth Ait	TQ167757
Hawkwood	TQ442695	Itchingwood Common	TQ416506
Hays Wharf, SE1	TQ330804	Iver Heath	TQ033835
Headley Heath	TQ200535	Jersey Farm	TL174097
Headstone	TQ139895	Joyce Green Hospital	TQ547760
Heathfield Rec Ground	TQ134743	Joyce Green Hospital Farm	TQ545765
Helicon Lake	TQ039909	Joyden's Wood	TQ500715
Hendon Park	TQ233884	Jubilee Gardens	TQ318803
Henley Wood, Chelsham	TQ374587	Juniper Hill, Rickmansworth	TQ060931
Herne Hill Cycle Track	TQ326742	Juniper Wood	TQ025895
Hersham GP	TQ128663	Kelsey Park	TQ376688
Hersham SF	TQ127657	Kempton Park	TQ117700
Hertford Heath	TL349107	Kempton Park Res	TQ122702
Hertingfordbury	TL305122	Kenley Aerodrome	TQ328587
Hextable	TQ522712	Kensington Gardens	TQ270803
High Elms	TQ450630	Kenton Recreation Ground	TQ165890
Highgate Wood	TQ283887	Keston Ponds	TQ426645
Highway Farm, Harefield	TQ060881	Kevington	TQ482675
Hilfield Park Res	TQ158959	Kew Gardens	TQ182769
Hill End	TQ050918	King George V Res	TQ374964
Hinchley Wood	TQ157650	King George VI Res	TQ041732
Hither Green Cemetery	TQ398729	King's Cross Development	TQ834302
Hither Green NR	TQ390740	Korda Lake	TQ045886
Hoblingwell Wood	TQ450690	Kynaston Wood	TQ482672
Hoddesdonpark Wood	TL352084	Ladywell Park	TQ372740
Hogsmill SF	TQ197682	Lafone St, SE1	TQ338799
Hogwood	TQ555631	Laleham Park	TQ053680
Holland Park	TQ248796	Langley Park	TQ013814
Hollow Pond	TQ414873	Layham's Farm	TQ400627
Holmethorpe SP	TQ295515	Leaves Green	TQ415615
Holyfield Hall Farm	TL384038	Lee	TQ395750
Home Cottage Farm	TQ028825	Limpsfield	TQ402531
Honor Oak	TQ358742	Limpsfield Chart	TQ445523

Little Britain Lake	TQ049813	Nonsuch Park	TQ232638
Little Venice	TQ263818	Norbury Park	TQ310699
Littlebrook Lake	TQ553756	North Cray	TQ490723
Littlebrook PS	TQ563764	Northaw Great Wood	TL285044
Long Coppice	TQ031849	Northolt RAF Aerodrome	TQ100850
Long Ditton	TQ174664	Norwood Grove	TQ333704
Long Reach SF	TQ553768	Nower Wood	TQ195547
Lonsdale Road Res	TQ218775	Nunhead Cemetery	TQ355756
Lordship Lane Rec Ground	TQ326902	Nutfield Ridge	TQ293540
Loseberry Farm, Claygate	TQ148636	Oak Hill Park	TQ277947
Love Hill House Farm, Iver	TQ013810	Oak Hill Wood	TQ280952
Lower Feltham	TQ099838	Oakend Wood	TQ020890
Lullingstone Lake/Park	TQ523644	Oakmere Park	TL264014
Lynster's Farm	TQ034920	Old Parkbury	TL163023
Lynsters Lake	TQ038916	Old Slade Lake	TQ040780
Mad Bess Wood	TQ076895	Old Wood, Richings Park	TQ031781
Malden Rushett	TQ169615	One Tree Hill, Honor Oak	TQ354743
Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath	TQ039836	Ongar Park Wood	TL495025
Maple Lodge NR	TQ036924	Orlitts North Lake	TQ041780
Martens Grove	TQ505752	Orlitts South Lake	TQ039775
Maryon Wilson Park	TQ419785	Orsett Fen	TQ628833
Mayfield Lakes	TQ052789	Osterley Park	TQ145780
Mayow Park	TQ358718	Oxhey Wood	TQ105925
Merchant Taylors' School	TQ088940	Oxleas Wood	TQ450686
Merstham Sewage Works	TQ303523	Oxted, Hurst Green	TQ396512
Middlesex Filter Beds	TQ359865	Oylers Farm	TL350005
Mill Green SF	TL245100	Panshanger Park	TL283130
Millwall Docks	TQ377795	Park Downs, Banstead	TQ267585
Mitcham Common	TQ290675	Park Farm, Chessington	TQ181623
Moat Mount Open Space	TQ215944	Park Farm, Enfield	TQ292983
Molesey GP	TQ129671	Park Street GP	TL149024
Molesey Heath	TQ132672	Park Wood	TQ095890
Moor Mill	TL145030	Parkland Walk	TQ294902
Moor Park GC	TQ075935	Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield	TQ303982
Moorhall Lake	TQ048889	Parndon Meads	TL433113
Moorhouse	TQ433532	Paynes Lane GP	TL380052
Morden Hall Park	TQ264687	Paynesfield North Lake	TQ038912
Muswell Hill	TQ282900	Paynesfield South Lake	TQ035910
Nashes Farm	TL180096	Peckham Rye Park	TQ348750
Navestock Lake/Park	TQ538985	Pen Ponds, Richmond Park	TQ200730
Nazeing GP	TL385072	Penton Hook	TQ043692
Netherhall GP	TL394083	Perry Oaks SF	TQ054758
New Beckenham	TQ367710	Petersham Meadows	TQ180736
New Cross Railway Cutting	TQ363768	Petts Wood	TQ445670
New Denham	TQ046849	Pickett's Lock	TQ361945
New Southgate	TQ292925	Pilvage Wood	TL236028
Nightingale Wood	TQ038888	Pinner Park	TQ132905
Noke Farm	TL125037	Polhill	TQ500610

Pond Wood	TL279006	Rye House Marsh	TL383103
Ponders End Lake	TQ362946	Rye Meads/Rye Meads SF	TL388102
Poplar Docks	TQ382803	Salisbury Hall Farm	TL195028
Post Wood	TL363131	Sanderstead	TQ344614
Potters Bar	TL250012	Savay Lake	TQ049880
Potters Crouch Plantation	TL103050	Saxten's Wood	TQ585648
Prae Wood	TQ120070	Scadbury Park	TQ455700
Primrose Hill	TQ276839	Scotsbridge Meadows	TQ064955
Prince George's Playing Fields	TQ235688	Scratch Wood, Surrey	TQ271593
Princes Coverts	TQ160610	Sevenoaks Reserve	TQ522570
Purfleet	TQ550783	Sewardstone	TQ379985
Purfleet Chalk Pits	TQ566785	Shadwell Basin	TQ352807
Putney Heath	TQ230739	Sheen Common	TQ196746
Pygro Park	TQ524935	Sheepwash Pond	TQ224928
Queen Elizabeth II Res	TQ120670	Shenleybury	TL183018
Queen Mary GP	TQ059700	Shepherds Bush	TQ228805
Queen Mary Res	TQ070695	Shepperton GP	TQ065674
Queen Mother Res	TQ017773	Silvertown	TQ412799
Queens Wood, Highgate	TQ283887	Slipe Lane GP	TL370049
Rainham GP	TQ549829	Smallford GP	TL198071
Rainham Marsh	TQ525800	Sopwell Mill, St Albans	TL154054
Rammey Marsh	TQ996374	South Harrow	TQ135861
Ranston Covert	TQ041890	South Norwood CP	TQ353684
Ravensbury Park	TQ268681	South Norwood Lake	TQ341693
Ravenscourt Park	TQ223790	South Ruislip	TQ115860
Raynes Park	TQ231684	Southwood Manor Farm	TQ116632
Regent's Park	TQ277830	Sparrows Wood	TQ436667
Reigate Hill	TQ255522	Spitalfields/Bishopsgate	TQ334818
Richings Park	TQ030794	Spring Ponds	TQ165932
Richmond Park	TQ200730	Springfield Marina	TQ347878
Rickmansworth Aquadrome	TQ057940	Springwell Lake	TQ043932
Riddlesdown	TQ326602	Springwell Lock	TQ044923
Ridgehill	TL202025	Springwell Reedbed	TQ041924
Riverside Open Space	TQ143693	St Anns Hill, Chertsey	TQ038674
Rockingham Rec Ground	TQ058837	St James's Park	TQ294798
Roding Valley Meadows	TQ435956	St Saviour's Creek, SE1	TQ340799
Roehyde	TL210010	St Thomas's Hospital	TQ307793
Rowdow Wood	TQ547595	Stain Hill Res	TQ124693
Rowley Farm	TQ004828	Staines Moor	TQ033734
Royal Albert Dock	TQ425807	Staines Res	TQ051731
Royal Oak Lake	TQ034915	Stanborough Lakes	TL230108
Royal Victoria Dock	TQ410807	Stanmore CP	TQ175930
Ruislip Common	TQ085893	Stanmore Common	TQ156940
Ruislip Gardens	TQ095863	Stanstead Abbots GP	TL391109
Ruislip Lido	TQ089891	Stanwell Moor	TQ040743
Rush Green, Hertford	TL350127	Stanwell Moor GP	TQ034744
Rushett Farm	TQ173608	Stapleford Tawney	TQ503900
Ruxley GP	TQ473700	Streatham Common	TQ305709

Stocker's Lake	TQ046935	Tyler's Common, Upminster	TQ568907
Stocker's West Lake	TQ042934	Tyttenhanger GP	TQ191865
Stocker's Farm	TQ053934	Upper Halliford	TQ091680
Stockley Park	TQ080790	Upper Norwood	TQ329699
Stoke Newington Res	TQ326876	Vauxhall Bridge	TQ303781
Stone Chalk Pit	TQ566753	Verulamium Lake	TL140070
Stone Lake	TQ565752	Vicarage Farm, Enfield	TQ305975
Stone Marsh	TQ568755	Victoria Park	TQ360837
Sundridge Park	TQ410700	Waddon Ponds	TQ309650
Surrey Docks	TQ360797	Walligton Green Nurseries	TQ290625
Sutton at Hone Lakes	TQ560700	Walsingham Wood	TL243040
Swanscombe Marsh	TQ605760	Waltham Cross	TL362003
Sydenham Hill	TQ335722	Waltham Cross GP	TL369006
Symondshyde Great Wood	TL195110	Waltham Marsh	TL373013
Syon Park	TQ175765	Walthamstow Marsh	TQ350878
Tandridge	TQ376505	Walthamstow Res	TQ353980
Tatling End	TQ020870	Walton Heath	TQ232540
Telegraph Hill, Claygate	TQ159647	Walton Res	TQ122685
Ten Acre Wood	TQ094720	Wanstead Park	TQ415875
Thames Ditton	TQ158673	Warley Place	TQ582909
Thamesmead	TQ474811	Warlingham	TQ358581
The Basin, Edgware	TQ188919	Waterlow Park	TQ286872
The Causeway NR	TQ105754	Watermeads	TQ275675
The Clump, Iver Heath	TQ022845	Watts Wood, Purfleet	TQ565788
Theobalds Park, Enfield	TL345005	Weald Park	TQ570945
Thistledene, Thames Ditton	TQ155673	Welham Green	TL235055
Thrift's Pit	TL366132	Wells Park	TQ345717
Thorndon Park	TQ620916	West Byfleet	TQ048607
Thorney CP	TQ048790	West End Common	TQ125632
Thorney Weir Lake Lake	TQ051799	West Hyde Fields	TQ030910
Thorpe Water Park	TQ030681	West India South Dock	TQ376800
Tilehouse North Lake	TQ038898	West Kingsdown	TQ580626
Tilehouse South Lake	TQ038896	West Ruislip GC	TQ081872
Titsey	TQ409551	West Thurrock	TQ582770
Tolpits Lake	TQ085943	Westerham Heights	TQ430560
Tolworth	TQ194659	Westminster Bridge	TQ305796
Tottenham Cemetery	TQ333911	Wey Meadows, Weybridge	TQ067645
Tottenham Lock	TQ348895	Whitgift Centre, Croydon	TQ323657
Tottenham Marsh	TQ354910	Whitewebbs Wood/Lake	TQ325997
Totteridge Long Pond	TQ234942	Whyteleafe	TQ337582
Tower Bridge	TQ337802	Willett Wood	TQ452685
Tower of London	TQ337806	Wimbledon Common	TQ225270
Tower Wood, Westerham	TQ448528	Wimbledon Park	TQ246723
Trent Park	TQ290970	Wimbledon Park Lake	TQ247724
Trevereux/Swaynesland	TQ433504	Winchmore Hill	TQ316946
Troy Mill Lake	TQ039905	Windsor Open Space	TQ241905
Turnford Brook	TL368037	Winterdown Woods	TQ123622
Turnford Marsh GP	TL370044	Wintry Wood	TL475035

Wm Girling Res	TQ367945	Worcester Park	TQ222655
Woldingham	TQ370572	Wormley Wood	TL322058
Wood Green Res	TQ304900	Wormwood Scrubs	TQ221818
Woodford GC	TQ395928	Wraysbury GP	TQ015735
Woodlands Park	TQ038830	Wraysbury Res	TQ025745
Woodlands Park Lake	TQ043826	Yeading Brook Meadows	TQ105835
Woodmansterne	TQ276597	Yiewsley Lake	TQ050804
Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross	TQ033933		



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Contributors to the Systematic List

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2000 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been inadvertently omitted. Many records of scarce species listed in Birds of the London Area 2000 are attributed to the observer who found or reported the bird and the attribution normally consists of the observer's initials. However if more than one observer possesses the same initials, a letter from the attributed observer's surname may be used.

- | | | |
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A. Salmon (AS)	N. Tanner (NT)	D. Wills (DWs)
N. Sampford (NS)	P. Tarrant (PT)	A. Wilson (AWn)
R.F. Sanderson (RFS)	J. Tatton (JTn)	A.D. Wilson (ADW)
E. Sansom (ES)	D.G. Taylor (DGT)	J. Winterbottom (JWm)
J. Sawyer (JS)	J. Taylor (JTr)	J. Woodliff (JW)
M. Schickner (MS)	N. Taylor (NTr)	S. Woods (SWs)
J. Schmidt (JSt)	B. Temple (BTe)	I. Woodward (IW)
J. Scivyer (JSr)	J.H. Terry (JHT)	R. Woodward (RW)
M. Scott-Ham (MSH)	B.J. Thomas (BJT)	B.E. Wright (BEW)
C Seabrook (CS)	J. Thompson (JT)	F. Wright (FW)
A.S.M. Self (ASMS)	M. Thompson (MT)	M. Wurr (MWu)
P. Sellers (SPs)	H. Tijssen (HT)	J. Yates (JY)
N.P. Senior (NPS)	J. Tilbrook (JTk)	J. Young (Jyg)
R. Sharp (RS)	P. Titterrell (PTi)	S. Younger (SY)
M. Shaw (MS)	C. Tubb (CT)	
M. Sheehan (MSn)	D. Tucker (DT)	
D. Shenton (DS)	A. Turner (ATr)	
M. Shepherd (MSd)	B. Turner (BTr)	
B. Sherlock (BSk)	J. Tyler (JTe)	
P. Silvester (PSr)	M. Underhill (MU)	
J.A. Simpson (JAS)	P. Unwin (PU)	
M. Sims (MSs)	B.M. Utton (BMU)	
P. Sims (PSs)	H. Vaughan (HV)	
O. Slessor (OS)	H. Venables (HVs)	
T.R. Smeeton (TRS)	C. Vero (CV)	
G. Smith (GS)	A.G. Verrall (AGV)	
J.C. Smith (JCS)	W. Vickers (WVs)	
K. Smith (KS)	P.J. Vines (PJV)	
R. Smith (RSh)	A. Waller (AW)	
T. Smith (TS)	M. Waller (MWr)	
C. Smout (Cst)	J. Walters (JW)	
R. Souter (Rsr)	E. Wang (EW)	
P.A. Spencer (PAS)	M. Warham (MWm)	
S.J. Spooner (SJS)	Nonsuch Watch (NW)	
E. Stannard (ESd)	D. Watson (DWn)	
P. Stephens (PSn)	R.J. Watts (RJW)	
A.J. Stevens (AJS)	S. Welch (SW)	
I. Steward (IS)	J.R. Weller (JRW)	
S. Storm-Turner (SST)	R.D. Weller (RDW)	
P.J. Strangeman (PJS)	M. Wells (MWl)	
P. Street (PSt)	Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)	
	M. Wemys (MWs)	
	J.J. Wheatley (JJW)	
	A. White (AWe)	

Birds of the London Area, 2000

with Additions and Corrections for previous years

A REPORT ON BIRD LIFE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The classification of species in the systematic list of this report is that adopted by K.H.Voous in his List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species. Sequence and nomenclature follow the *Birdwatch* Checklist of the Birds of the Western Palearctic, 2000 and the relevant EURING number appears beside each species and sub-species heading.

The six counties within the London Area are signified in the report as follows: Essex, Herts = Hertfordshire, Middx = Middlesex, Bucks = Buckinghamshire, Kent, Surrey and In Lond = Inner London. North, South, East and West are abbreviated to N,S,E and W. Other abbreviations are:

CBC = Common Birds Census	Res = Reservoir (s)
CP = Country Park	RG = Ringing Group
GC = Golf Course	SF = Sewage Farm/Works
GP = Gravel Pit(s)	SP = Sand Pit
<i>LBR</i> = <i>London Bird Report</i>	NR = Nature Reserve
LNR = Local Nature Reserve	FB = Filter Beds
OS = Open Space	WCB = Watercress Beds
R = River	WR = Wildfowl Reserve
PS = Power Station	

Observers' initials in the report are shown against principal records. A full list of observers appears on pages 16 to 19. The abbreviation 'mo' used for some records, indicates 'many observers'. Sightings of more than one bird (where they are assumed to have arrived together) are treated as one record. All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list can be assumed to refer only to the 20th century, unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

0003 Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

Essex King George V Res, one Nov 6th (AM).

Middx King George VI Res, a juvenile from Dec 6th to 23rd (DJM,CL,AVM,PN *et al*).

The average for the last decade is two birds per year. Birds are erratic with their length of stay, some are present for several weeks others for less than a day. Both these records live up to the species' reputation. The peak period for finding birds is late November and the end of

December/beginning of January. During the last ten years the peak period for being present is early February.

0004 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

- Essex King George V Res, one Nov 3rd and 4th (SC,AM,PJV).
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, an adult from Oct 14th to 18th (PMs et al).
 Middx King George VI Res, a juvenile from Jan 9th to May 9th, another from Feb 9th to 15th; a juvenile from Nov 26th to Dec 2nd and an adult from Dec 14th to 21st (CL,AVM,PN,KLP et al). Staines Res, one on Feb 20th, one (probably an adult) from Oct 31st to Dec 31st, joined by a juvenile from Dec 6th and another adult from Dec 23rd (DHy,AVM,PN,KLP).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, a juvenile on Nov 25th (JAS). Later at King George VI and then Staines Res.
 Kent Littlebrook Lake, a juvenile from Dec 28th into 2001 (GB).
 Surrey Island Barn/Walton Res, the two juveniles from 1999 remained in the area until Jan 16th (DMH,SJS).

Another excellent showing. With wandering individuals it is always difficult to interpret the west London situation (although a good set of records in the second winter period made things easier), but it is likely that there were eight new birds this year, assuming adults aren't returning birds and the Hilfield bird didn't later move to Staines.

0007 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

A very high breeding total of 170 pairs is due in no small part to the extraordinary total from Rainham Marsh. Even without that site, though, this year's total is the highest for very many years.

Localities holding pairs during the breeding season (number of pairs or broods in brackets), the largest counts in each sector and all Inner London records are shown below.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (2). Dagenham Chase (4). Essex Filter Beds (2). Fairlop (4). Fishers Green (1). Harrow Lodge Farm (3). Hornchurch CP (3). Malagen (1). Mayesbrook Park (1). Moreton (1). Parsloes Park (2). Purfleet Chalk Pit (4). Rainham Marsh (36). Stubber OPC (2). Valentines Park (1). Waltham Abbey Woods (1). Walthamstow Res (2). Wanstead Park (2). 45 were counted at Rainham Marsh on Aug 13th, which was also the largest London count of the year.
 Herts Broxbourne GP (1). Coopers Green GP (3). Hilfield Park Res (8). Maple Lodge NR (2). North Mymms Park (1). Panshanger Park (1). Rye Meads SF (9). Tyttenhanger GP (1). 37 at Rye Meads ST on Sept 16th was the peak count for the sector.

- Middx Brent Res (2). Kempton Park Res (3). Middlesex Filter Beds (2). Parkside Farm Res (2). Perry Oaks SF (1). Ponders End Lake (2). Stain Hill Res (4). Stanwell Moor (3). Stockley Park (1). The Causeway NR (8). The peak count was 41 at Brent Res on Sept 5th..
- Bucks Chalfont Park (3). Denham Court (2). Hollybush Lane (1). Tilehouse South Lake (1). The maximum count was of 14 at Chalfont Park on Oct 1st.
- Kent Littlebrook Lake (1). Swanscombe Marsh (5). Thamesmead (1). Tripcock Point, Thamesmead (1). 25 were at Swanscombe Marsh on Aug 12th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT (10). Beddington Park (1). Holmethorpe SP (3). Kew Gardens (2). Lonsdale Road Res (2). Pen Ponds, Richmond Park (2). Portsmouth Road FB, Surbiton (1). Thorpe Water Park (1). Trevereux Pond (1). Waddon Ponds (1). Walton Res (2). Wimbledon Common (1). 30 at Beddington SF in August was the maximum count.
- In Lond Singles were at Buckingham Palace on Sept 8th and Nov 22nd. Kensington Gardens one on Nov 4th with two on the 6th. St James's Park, two on Jan 3rd, one Feb 6th, two Feb 13th, two Nov 22nd and two Dec 13th.

0009 Great Crested Grebe***Podiceps cristatus***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding wise a welcome increase on last years figures (an increase to 178 pairs/broods), although still at a fairly low ebb. At some gravel pit sites maturation of the vegetation combined with stocking of large specimen fish could be affecting breeding success, but it is unlikely that this can be applied across the board. Breeding sites are shown with the number of pairs/broods in brackets. A summary of Inner London records is given.

- Essex Barking Park (1). Belhus Wood CP (4). Connaught Water (1). Cornmill Meadows (1). Dagenham (3). Dagenham Chase (4). Hainault Forest (2). Harrow Lodge Farm (1). Holyfield (7). Hornchurch CP (2). Kennington Park (1). King George V Res (1). Mayesbrook Park (1). Netherhall GP (2). Rainham GP (1). Rainham Marsh (1). Raphaels Park (1). South Park, Ilford (1). Stubber OPC (2). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (12). Wanstead Park (1). Woodford (1).
- Herts Aldenham Res (6). Amwell GP (1). Beech Farm GP (1). Bowyers GP (2). Cheshunt GP (17). Coopers Green GP (1). Frogmore GP (1). Hilfield Park Res (8). Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads SF (2). Slipe Lane GP (2). Smallford GP (1). Stanborough Lake (1). Stanstead Abbotts GP (4). Tyttenhanger GP (2). Verulamium Lake (2).
- Middx Brent Res (6). Broadwater Lake (8). Bushy Park (1). Grovelands Park (2). Ponders End Lake (1). Shepperton GP (1). Springwell Lake (1). Stoke Newington Res (2).
- Bucks East Iver Lakes (2). Farlows Lake (1). Old Slade Lake (3). Thorney Country Park (1). Tilehouse North Lake (1).

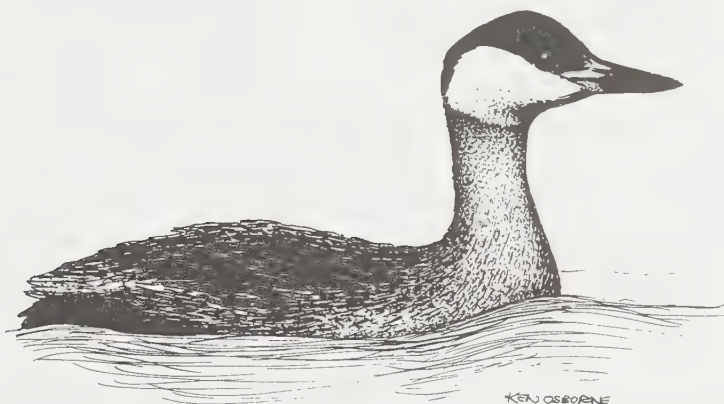
- Kent Chipstead Lake (4). Danson Park (1). Littlebrook Lake (2). Ruxey GP (3). Sevenoaks WR (6). Thamesmere Lakes (1).
- Surrey Barnes WWT (3). Barwell Court Farm (1). Gatton Park Lake (3). Bay Pond, Godstone (1). Epsom Common (1). Lonsdale Road Res (1). Pen Ponds, Richmond (1). R. Ember, East Molesey (1). R. Mole, West Molesey (1). R. Thames, Kingston (1). R. Thames, Molesey (1). R. Thames, Sunbury (2). R. Thames, Thames Ditton (1). South Norwood CP (1). South Norwood Lake (2). Walton Res (2).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one pair bred, also one flew into a wall and unfortunately died on May 15th. Capital Wharf, Wapping, one Apr 18th. Chelsea Creek, R. Thames, three on June 30th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, two pairs bred and a maximum 13 was present on Jan 19th. Regent's Park (1). Victoria Park, one in November.

The table below includes sites where at least one count of over 100 was made. Note the welcome inclusion of Queen Mary Res, consistently one of the country's top ten sites for the species.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Walthamstow Res	41	34	49	67	101	91	83	77	44
Middx	KG VI Res	22	16	19	81	128	348	136	126	-
	Queen Mary Res	312	291	174	172	49	81	63	207	211
	Wraysbury Res	-	27	18	191	94	111	10	4	10

Correction 1999

Essex The table referred to Walthamstow Res not William Girling Reservoir.



0010 Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

- Essex King George V Res, one on Dec 23rd (AC,PJV). Netherhall GP, one first-winter on Jan 6th to 9th (RMC,IK). Walthamstow Res, the bird from 1999 remained to May 14th (DGD, *et al*).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, a first-winter from Jan 15th to 24th and again Feb 2nd, with an adult from Feb 13th to 20th (GSE).
- Middx Brent Res, a first-summer from Sept 2nd to 7th (ASMS *et al*). Ruislip Lido, a first-winter from Jan 4th to 18th (RNHS,AVM).

Surrey Barnes WWT, a moulting adult on Sept 9th (NPS).

Seven new birds is a much better showing than last year. Long staying birds in the Lea Valley have become something of a feature in recent years.

0011 Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, traditionally less frequent than the next species.

Essex King George V Res, one from Jan 9th to Feb 13th (AM,PJV *et al*).

Middx Denham Court GP, one Jan 24th (RNHS). King George VI Res, one from Dec 18th to 21st (KLP). Shepperton GP, one on Jan 8th (SJS). Springwell Lake, one from Jan 3rd to 7th (PLs,AVM). Staines Res, one Jan 9th, a summer plumaged adult from Apr 6th to 21st and another on Nov 12th (CL,AVM,PN,KLP *et al*).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Nov 25th and Dec 20th (JAS).

Staines Reservoir is always popular with this species. With the mild winters of recent years this species may become something of a rarity in London. During the 1996 cold snap at least 14 birds appeared which is higher than the total sighting for the whole of this year.

0012 Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Status: passage migrant and occasional breeder.

Essex King George V Res, seven on Feb 11th, one on Apr 9th, two on May 20th, one on Sept 9th, one on Sept 15th, three on Oct 14th and one on 18th, one on Nov 3rd and 4th, and two on Nov 18th (mo). Rainham Marsh, a juvenile on Sept 27th and two on Oct 5th (KB,PAB). Walthamstow Res, one on Aug 24th, seven on Sept 14th, five on 15th, five on 25th, two on Oct 15th, six on 22nd, three on 31st, four on Nov 3rd and seven on Nov 5th (DA,JFk,DGDL *et al*). Wm Girling Res, five over-wintered from 1999, with the last in spring on the 8th Apr. Eight were present from Mar 12th to 14th and seven on Feb 3rd and 9th. In the second half of the year the first arrival was on July 25th and numbers built up to a remarkable 20 on Nov 3rd. Eight remained into 2001 (PJV *et al*).

Herts Amwell GP, singles on Mar 24th and Apr 4th (BR,GJW). Hilfield Park Res, the first bird arrived on Mar 19th and seven were present next day. Three pairs then summered and incredibly one young was reared by Great Crested Grebes. An additional adult was present during July and then a pair with a brood of one was seen in August. The last sighting was of an adult on Aug 27th (GSE,GJW *et al*).

Middx Broadwater Lake, singles on Mar 21st, Oct 11th and from Dec 27th to 31st (CL,DR,AVM). King George VI Res, two on Apr 10th, one from Aug 15th to 21st, two on Sept 16th increasing to five by 26th to Oct 2nd, with four to 19th and one to Dec 2nd (mo). Ponders End Lake, two on Nov 10th (AC). Staines Res, one from Feb 26th to Apr 7th, with two on Mar 4th, two from

July 18th to Aug 31st, singles from Oct 13th to 14th, on 21st, on Dec 2nd and from 16th to 29th (mo). The Causeway NR, one on Oct 1st and 14th (CL,KLP).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Aug 22nd, Sept 7th and 23rd (JAS).

Surrey Barnes WWT, one on Feb 26th (BSk). Holmethorpe SP, one in summer plumage on Apr 16th (SWG,SHR). Island Barn Res, one on Apr 9th and 17th, two on Apr 25th and three on Sept 8th (DMH). Walton Res, a juvenile on Aug 11th, one on Oct 20th and two on Nov 7th and 8th (DMH,SJS *et al*).

Very much a consolidation of last year's form. It was thought by the main observer in the Lea Valley that as many as 28 birds were present in the area during the autumn/second winter period. This species remains scarce in Bucks and particularly in the Kent sector.

0020 Fulmar

Fulmaris glacialis

Status: rare visitor

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one flew SE at 07.30 on July 1st (DGH).

Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, one found at 06.09 on July 1st, later moved to Besborough Res, part of the Walton Res complex. (DMH).

A very difficult bird to catch up with inland, these being only the 29th and 30th London record. Not an easy explanation as to why two were inland in July.

0052 European Storm Petrel

Hydrobates pelagicus

Status: rare visitor, normally storm driven.

Essex Rainham Marsh, one being harried by gulls at 15.15 hours on Oct 31st (KB).

Kent Dartford Marsh, one on the R. Thames on Oct 30th and 31st (DWt *et al*), probably two birds present at 14.25 hours on Oct 31st (AJM). Greenhithe, one on R. Thames for five minutes on Oct 30th before flying E (JYg). Stone Marsh, one on R. Thames adjacent to the Dartford Crossing on Oct 31st (BEW).

It is likely that all the Kent records, and possibly that in Essex, refer to the same one or two birds. If, as suggested, one bird was involved then it becomes the 15th London record and has now been recorded now in successive years after a seven year gap.

0055 Leach's Petrel

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Status: rare visitor, often during 'wreck' conditions.

Essex Rainham Marsh, one flew up river at 14.35hrs on Oct 31st (KB).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one from 12.15 to 15.50hrs on Oct 30th (CDRH).

- Kent Dartford Marsh, one flew up river past Stone Marsh on Oct 31st at 12.50hrs and lingered in the area until 15.45 when it flew back down river (JRH,BEW).
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, one at 16.00 on Oct 30th was chased off by Herring Gulls (DMH).

A good set of records, of presumably three birds. A much more regular species than Storm Petrel. Two years on the trot for the QEII and two observers were fortunate enough to see two species of petrel on the same day.

0071 Gannet *Morus bassanus*
Status: scarce visitor.

- Surrey Epsom, an immature found injured on Sept 30th was taken into care at Leatherhead Wildlife Hospital, where it subsequently died (EG). Queen Elizabeth II Res, a first-year bird flew S/SE on Oct 26th (DMH).

The 59th and 60th London Records. Late September and throughout October is proving the most consistent period for this species.

0072 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Status: breeding resident, common elsewhere especially in winter.

An increase of 72 nests at Walthamstow Reservoirs (bringing the total to a record 242) and another doubling in numbers at Broadwater Lake to 24 pairs, consolidated an already healthy situation, but apart from one apparently carrying nesting material at Amwell GP there were no other nesting records.

Regularly counted sites with at least one count of over 200 are shown in the table below and then a selection of peak numbers for other sectors followed by an Inner London summary.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Walthamstow Res	255	322	470	417	249	166	288	72	74
Middx	Queen Mary Res	678	549	382	53	39	-	44	44	43
	Staines Res	1	2	3	12	-	170	438	10	12
	Wraysbury Res	-	16	39	98	506	145	7	8	11
Surrey	QE II Res	625	435	290	231	410	435	510	390	320
	Walton Res	110	101	34	22	43	280	210	31	47

- Essex Beckton SF, 113 on July 24th. Fishers Green, 72 at roost on Jan 1st.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, 69 on Oct 15th.
- Middx King George VI Res, 80 on June 24th and 25th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 98 Jan 16th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 94 on two dates in August.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, 63 on May 2nd. Lonsdale Road Res, 62 on Oct 1st.
- In Lond Noted at 14 sites with a maximum of 30 on the Thames at Lambeth Bridge on Mar 2nd.

remained at the Bittern Watchpoint from 1999 until Mar 1st, then one from Oct 19th to the year end, with two reported on Nov 12th (mo). One was seen to roost in Nightingale Wood reedbed on Nov 26th (ADW). Maple Lodge NR, singles on Jan 1st (PLs) and on Oct 10th. Rye Meads SF, one from Jan 29th to Mar 15th with two on Feb 1st, then one from Nov 4th until the year end (RMRG).

Bucks Horton GP, one on Feb 14th (CL). Queen Mother Res, one N on Feb 26th (JAS).

The Bittern Watch point at Cheshunt GP, is one of the best places in the country to see this species of heron. Bitterns have been wintering in the Lea Valley since the early 1980s. During the first winter-period there were c12 present, and six in the second-winter period.

0119 Little Egret

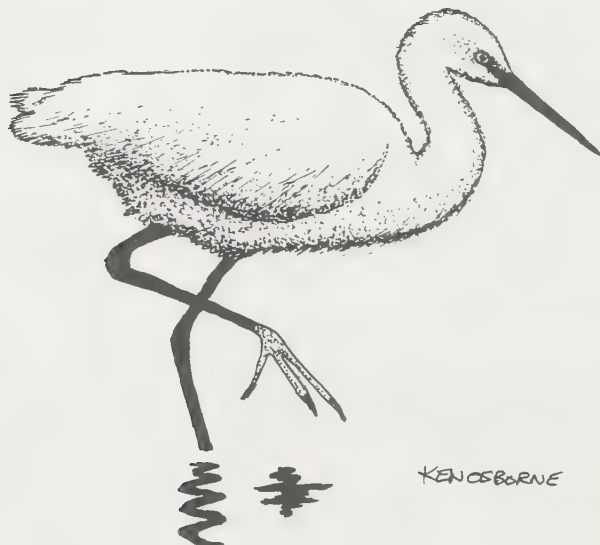
Egretta garzetta

Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

Now known to be breeding in Essex, hopefully it will only be a matter of time as records and range expand, for Little Egret to become a London breeding bird. This year produced a total of 57 records involving 66 birds, even allowing for duplication this is a large increase in records from 1999 (16 records of 22 birds), especially in Middlesex. The majority of records came in the second half of the year.

Essex Barking Bay, one on July 15th (SP). Cornmill Meads, one on July 18th (PJV,SC,IK). Rainham Marsh, one present from June 23rd to July 19th with a damaged right leg (KB), and a different bird on July 30th (PF) with singles on Aug 4th(KB) and Nov 28th (MU).

Middx Broadwater Lake, one on Jan 6th (DR), two on Jan 11th (CL), singles on 15th, 16th (AVM,DR), three on Jan 18th (CL), Jan 27th (DR) and Jan 29th (AVM). It is highly probable that the same 3 birds reappeared again on Mar 2nd and 6th (CL). Kempton Park Res, three on Aug 18th and 19th (AQ *et al*), two from 20th to 23rd and one from Aug 25th to Sept 16th (mo). King



George VI Res, singles on July 23rd, Aug 20th and Sept 7th (PN). Queen Mary Res, one on Aug 20th (PN,DJM). Staines Moor, singles on July 23rd (DJM), Aug 7th (DJM), Aug 17th (PN), Aug 20th (DJM) and on Sept 5th (CL). Stanwell Moor, singles on July 23rd, Aug 20th and Sept 26th (PN). Wraysbury Res, one from July 27th to Aug 24th (CL *et al*), two from Aug 27th to Sept 4th, singles on Sept 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th, two from Sept 13th to 25th and a single on Sept 30th.

- Bucks Denham, three on Apr 1st (DR) and one on Apr 16th (DR). Higher Denham, three on Jan 1st (RJ). Horton GP, one on July 24th (CDRH).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on Aug 16th, 23rd and 30th, also Sept 7th, 10th and 16th (BEW,PR). Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 5th (MC), four on June 29th (DDe) and singles on July 31st, Aug 2nd, 8th and 12th (MDN,SRPy).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 23rd (KJM) and one on May 27th (GDJM). Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on Aug 17th, two seen from Aug 21st to 24th and a single from Aug 25th to Sept 12th (DMH,SJS). These were probably roosting birds from Kempton NR.
- In Lond Regents Park, one over on Aug 3rd (ARD,DJ).

0121 Great White Egret *Egretta alba*
Status: very rare vagrant.

- Middx Kempton Park Res, one on Oct 7th (KLP)

Only the second London record, a welcome addition to the one seen at Brent Res in 1997. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. There was another record which has not been accepted. This species is no longer the great rarity of the of 1970s and 1980s, from 1974 to 1985 there were 23 records but then from 1986 to 2000 there were 73 records in the UK!

0122 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Status: common breeding resident.

This year's breeding population has increased to only 455, from last years total (391 nests). Most sites increased year on year but several new sites were discovered which has boosted the population.

Large counts are given away from breeding sites and figures in brackets are occupied nests in 1999.

- Essex Harrow Lodge Farm, one pair raised three young. Holyfield Lake, one occupied nest (3). Hornchurch C/P, one occupied nest. Mayesbrook Park, two occupied nests which produced three broods. Rainham Marsh, one nest. Waltham Abbey Woods, 22 occupied nests (24). Walthamstow Res, 110 occupied nests (108).
- Herts Amwell GP, nine occupied nests (7). Stocker's Lake, 33 nests (49). Verulamium Lake, 8 occupied nests (12).

- Middx Broadwater Lake, 28 nests (41). Kempton Park Res, 60 nests (65). Osterley Park, three occupied nests (3). Yiewsley GP, 18 nests (15).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two nests (1).
- Kent Crossness/Thamesmead, eight nests (9). Kelsey Park, 18 nests (15). Swanscombe, nine occupied nests (2).
- Surrey Barnes, one nest. Beddington SF, 33 on Oct 1st. Bookham Common, 25 occupied nests (14). Brentford Ait, 23 nests (21). Horton C/P, three occupied nests (2). Lonsdale Road Res, four nests, two of which were successful (2). Morden Hall Park, three occupied nests. Richmond Park, 13 nests (8). R Thames, Wandsworth, 32 on Sept 21st.
- In Lond Battersea Park, 27 nests (29). Regents Park, 22 nests (24).

0134 White Stork***Ciconia ciconia***

Status: rare visitor

- Surrey Sheen, one over East Sheen on June 17th (SST).

The 14th London record. The peak period for this species is the second half of April through to the first half of May with 43% of all records falling in this period. This record is only the second record for June.

0152 Mute Swan***Cygnus olor***

Status: common breeding resident.

The number of breeding pairs for each county is given in the following table.

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
41	18	25	12	4	26	2	128

Maintaining last year's increase, these figures show a significant jump in the breeding figures for Essex and, to a lesser extent, Middlesex with the other counties more or less stable. Please continue to submit all breeding records of this species so that we can monitor the situation. The largest counts are given under the respective counties below.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, 48 in December. Eagle Pond, 72 in January. Fishers Green, 39 in August. Harrow Lodge Farm, 89 in July. R. Lea, Waltham Abbey, 52 in May. Waltham Abbey, 74 in March. Walthamstow Res, 87 in October.
- Herts Amwell GP, 22 in May. Batchworth Lake, 22 in December. Bowyer's GP, 54 in April and May. Bury Lake, 76 in March. Troy Mill GP, 127 in October. Tyttenhanger GP, 40 in December. Verulamium Lake, 26 in September.
- Middx Brent Res, 36 in August and November. Broadwater Lake, 44 in August. Bushy Park, 25 in January. Hampton Court Park, 47 in November. Staines Res, 26 in July.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 87 in October.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 13 in August and September.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, 36 in November. Holmethorpe SP, 26 in January. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 65 in June. R. Thames (Molesey), 82 in July. R.

Thames, (Sunbury), 38 in May. Riverside Open Space (Molesey), 79 in February. Thorpe Water Park, 44 in September. Walton Res, 56 in July. In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 80 in June. Kensington Gardens, 89 in December.

0153 Bewick's/Whooper Swan *Cygnus sp*

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

Essex Corbet's Tey, one on Dec 23rd considered to be Bewick's Swan by the observer.

0159 White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers.

Often difficult to be certain whether individual birds are wild or of captive origin.

Essex Barking Bay, 244 on Jan 16th flying W at 09.15 (AJAD *et al*). This flock was seen a few minutes earlier at Rainham Marsh when it was 354 strong, the other 110 flew W at Dagenham Chase at 09.20 (KB) (see also Middlesex).

Middx Brent Res, 110 flew N at 09.50 on Jan 16th (ASMS), clearly the same flock seen over Dagenham Chase half an hour earlier (see Essex).

Kent Dartford Marsh, 73 over N at 09.10 on Jan 16th (DM) were presumably part of the flock in Essex.

Again only a few records, but the one large flock of the year was widely observed as it flew over London. The Dagenham Chase flock was the same as the Brent Reservoir sighting.

Grey Goose sp *Anser sp*

Middx Southgate, 80 to 100 NE on Jan 16th (RA).

Surrey Holmethorpe SP, four on Dec 26th (SHR).

In Lond Regent's Park, c400 on Jan 16th (AR), presumably the flock of White-fronted Geese noted elsewhere in the area that day.

Two more flocks on Jan 16th possibly relate to the large movement of White-fronted Geese seen elsewhere in the London Area.

0161 Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Status: common feral breeding resident, controlled.

Breeding records (with numbers of pairs or broods in parentheses) and largest counts in each county are listed below. As in previous years, Sevenoaks WR held the largest numbers, with up to 369 birds.

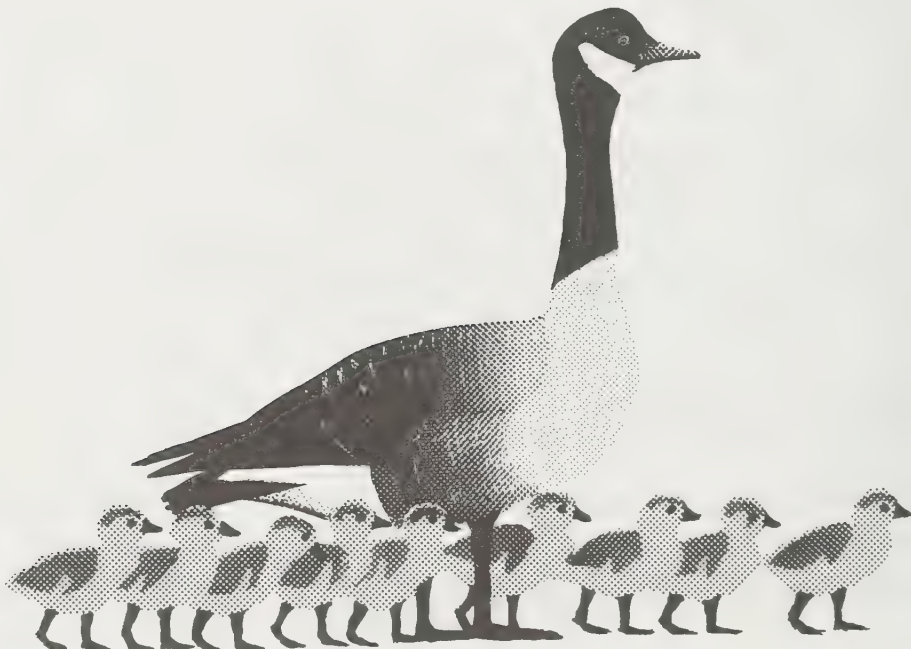
- Essex Belhus Woods CP (3). Fishers Green (2), 28 on Feb 22nd. Holyfield Hall Farm, 24 on Mar 10th. Hooks Marsh (7-10). Hornchurch CP (4). Mayesbrook Park, Barking (3). Rainham Marsh (1). R. Lea, Waltham Abbey, 54 on Oct 17th. Lea Navigation, Waltham Abbey, 54 on Oct 29th. Walthamstow Res, 61 on Apr 8th.
- Herts Amwell GP (1). Lynster's Farm, 50 on Feb 6th. Pynesfield GP, 100 on Sept 12th. Rye Meads SF (1). Stockers Farm, 24 on Aug 6th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake (1) and 80 on Dec 30th. Moorhall GP (2).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 12 on Jan 16th.
- Kent Darenth Valley Walk, 80 on Jan 27th. Orpington (2). Sevenoaks WR, 369 on Aug 14th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, 24 on Oct 22nd. Claremont Lake (3-4). Holmethorpe SP (1) and 60 on Sept 12th. Kew Gardens (3). Pen Ponds, Richmond Park (1). R. Thames, Putney, 25 on Oct 22nd. Trevereux/Swaynesland (2) and 115 on Oct 22nd. Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1) and 70 on Aug 25th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (1) and 195 on Nov 22nd. Kensington Gardens, 142 on Nov 6th. St James's Park (1) and 89 on Sept 13th. Victoria Park (1) and 39 on Dec 1st.

0166 Canada Goose***Branta canadensis***

Status: very common breeding resident; controlled.

As part of the ongoing programme to control numbers, many eggs were pricked, particularly at Inner London sites. Localities with five or more broods or breeding pairs (numbers in parentheses), selected large counts and notable Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Beckton Park (9). Dagenham Chase (6). Eagle Pond, 133 in February. Fishers Green (30) and 250 in January. Hainault Forest (6). Harrow Lodge Farm, 109 in June. Holyfield Hall Farm, 237 in November.



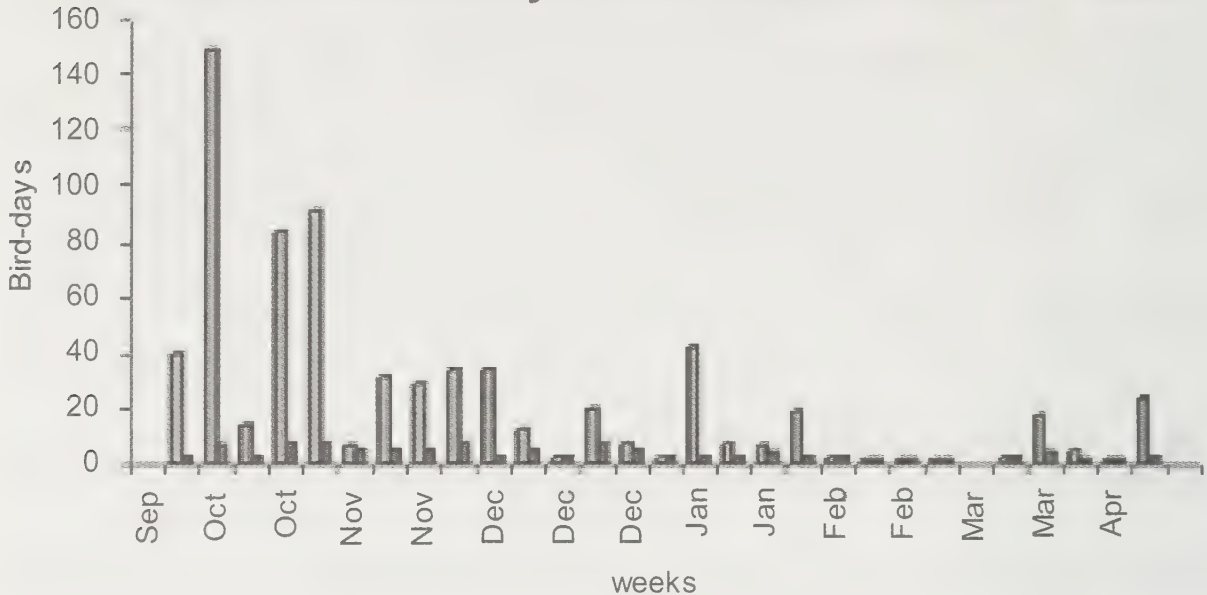
- Rainham Marsh (6). Raphaels Park (6) and 108 in June. Waltham Abbey Marsh, 175 in October. Roding Valley Meadows (5). Royal Docks (9). South Park, Ilford (7). Walthamstow Res, 907 in July.
- Herts Aldenham Res, 123 in September. Amwell GP, 147 in June. Bowyers GP (7). Cheshunt GP (24+). Lynster's Farm, 115 in March. Tyttenhanger GP, 170 in September. Verulamium Lake, 210 in September.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 157 in June. Brent Res, (6), 169 in July. Finsbury Park, 160 in July. Halliford Mere Lakes (7+ 41 goslings seen). Kempton Park, 119 in November. Kempton Park Res, 322 in September. Queen Mary Res, 133 in June. Shepperton GP, 148 in July. Staines Moor, 350 in November. Vicarage Farm, 180 in September. Wood Green Res, 110 in January. Wraysbury Res, 127 in September.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 100 in September.
- Kent Danson Park, 132 in November. Ruxley GP (6). Sevenoaks WR, 107 in June.
- Surrey Apps Court Farm GP, 150 in September. Beddington SF, 165 in August. Epsom Common, 203 in August. Ham Lands, 200 in August. Hersham GP, 111 in October. Holmethorpe SP, 156 in August. Morden Hall Park (6). R Thames (Molesey), 270 in July. South Norwood Lake, 135 in September. Walton Res, 150 in December. Wimbledon Common (6).
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (1), 113 in October. Kennington Park (1). Little Venice (1). Southwark Park (1). St James's Park (1), 71 in October. Victoria Park (6), 180 in June and 102 in July.

0168 Brent Goose***Branta bernicla***

Status: formerly scarce migrant and winter visitor, greatly increased in recent years.

- Essex Creekmouth, Barking, one on Nov 27th (PD). King George V Res, one on Dec 7th (PJV). Rainham Marsh, 14 on Oct 21st (MKD) and 24 flying up-river on Nov 5th (KB). Wm Girling Res, ten on Oct 22nd (PJV)
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 5th (SHM). Rye Meads SF, one on Nov 1st (RMRG).
- Middx King George VI Res, 12 on Apr 9th (PN) and a single on Dec 17th (MMe). Staines Res, 11 on Apr 9th (MMe,PN).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Feb 3rd (JAS), 42 one on Oct 22nd (JAS) for three hours before flying S and a single dark-bellied on Dec 28th (CDRH).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 24 on Nov 5th (DM) and a single on Dec 3rd and Dec 30th (DM). Swanscombe Marsh, four on Dec 2nd (BEW).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, a single dark-bellied on Feb 2nd (RBK) plus further single dark-bellieds on Dec 21st (AS) and Dec 22nd (PM). Beddington SF, 23 flying WSW on Sept 23rd (BBR), a further 17 flying SW on Sept 25th (BBR), 30 flying W on Oct 1st (BBR), two on Oct 28th (BBR), and two on Dec 23rd (BBR). Holmethorpe SP, a single on Dec 26th (SHR) and one on Dec 29th (GWJH). Island Barn Res, 12 on Oct 7th (DMH) and five on Dec 8th (AQ) were also at Hersham GP on the same day. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Nov 24th (SJS) and two on Dec 15th (SJS). Walton Res, one on Dec 15th (DMH)

Brent Goose bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



A considerable improvement on last year, even allowing for a degree of duplication, with thirteen counts in double figures. Hopefully, a return to previous levels. The above graph shows that October is month for Brent Geese movements in the London Area, which excludes a single flock of c.250 on Oct 20th. Including the largest flock the average group size is nine birds for the last five years.

0170 Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Status: increasing feral breeding resident.

This year five pairs bred with another attempting to breed and at least two other potential pairs. Although this may appear to be a sudden increase from the two confirmed breeding for 1999, Egyptian Goose may soon join the ranks of other escaped species that are now firmly based in the London area. All records are listed.

- Essex Fishers Green, one on April 24th and 25th. South Park, Ilford, one on Jan 11th and two on Aug 28th.
- Herts Amwell GP, up to three all year with four on Jan 14th and Oct 1st. The only breeding information received was a bird nest prospecting on May 29th. Hilfield Park Res, two on May 20th. Lynster's Farm, one from Mar 6th to Apr 21st, one on May 19th and May 27th. Pynesfield GP, two flew over on Aug 29th. Stocker Lake, one on Sept 18th. Stocker's Farm, one on Jan 3rd, one on Apr 6th and 8th. Troy Mill GP, one on Apr 30th and several other spring dates (none given).
- Middx Bushy Park, two pairs bred fledging eight and six young, present throughout the year with a maximum of ten on May 28th and June 1st. Hampton Court Park, one pair bred raising six young, seen throughout the year with a maximum of 15 on Sept 2nd and Oct 30th. Mead Farm,

Shepperton, three on Oct 13th, and two subsequent dates. Staines Moor, one on Dec 15th.

- Bucks Denham Court, two on July 13th. Langley Park, three on Dec 15th. Woodland Park GP, two on June 5th. Wraysbury GP, two on Jan 16th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, ten flew SW on Oct 29th. Godstone, a pair present all year. Holmethorpe SP, three on Nov 20th, two on Dec 3rd, one on Dec 30th. Kew Gardens, singles seen on Apr 6th, July 1st and Dec 2nd. Leigh Place Water, three on Dec 17th. Old Oxted, six on Jan 6th and four on Jan 4th. Townland Pond, Oxted, eight on Apr 2nd and four on May 12th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on May 1st and ten flew SE on Nov 2nd. R. Thames, Richmond, singles on Aug 16th and Oct 1st. R. Thames, Shepperton, two on Apr 16th and ♂♀ with three juvs on June 18th. R. Thames, Sudbury, one on May 12th. R. Thames, Walton-on-Thames, two on July 3rd. Reigate Priory, singles on Jan 16th, Sept 3rd, Oct 22nd and Dec 17th. South Norwood CP, ten flew over on Oct 29th. Thorpe Water Park, one pair raised two young, present throughout the year with a maximum of five on Oct 29th and Dec 9th. Walton Res, one on Feb 2nd, two on July 30th, two on Aug 13th, two on Aug 16th, four on Aug 24th and two on Sept 21st.

0173 **Shelduck**

Tadorna tadorna

Status: decreasing breeding resident on Lower Thames, regular visitor to major inland waters where it breeds in small numbers.

Continued monitoring is needed, since it is thought that loss of habitat on the Lower Thames is affecting breeding success. Breeding records (with numbers of pairs or broods in brackets) are given below, together with the largest counts for each county.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (19), 176 in November. Beckton SW (7). Cornmill Meads, 13 in June. Creekmouth, Barking (1). Hall Marsh (1). Hornchurch CP (3). Rainham Marsh (4), 65 in April. Thames Barrier (2). Walthamstow Res (1).
- Herts Coopers Green GP (1). Rye Meads SF (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1 possible breeding pair).
- Middx Kempton Park Res (1). King George VI Res, 21 in January and June. Perry Oaks SF, three pairs present. Staines Res, 31 in January. Stanwell Moor, between two and four in April and May.
- Bucks Old Slade Lake, four in May. Queen Mother Res, ♀ and two ducklings in July.
- Kent Crossness (8). Dartford Marsh, 50 in February and 35 in May. Sevenoaks WR (1). Swanscombe Marsh, 30 in April. Thames Barrier, 166 in January.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 14 in May. Field Common GP, ten in May. Hersham GP, 12 in early May. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 12 in June. Walton Res, 13 in February and 16 in June.
- In Lond Bankside Reach, two on June 10th. Capital Wharf, Wapping, two on May 31st. Millbank Tower area, two on July 4th. Paddington Green, two on Apr 3rd.

- 0178 Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*
 Status: established, locally common, feral breeding resident.
- Widespread throughout the area except in Kent. The highest count of 65 birds at Connaught Water in November was an increase from last year's 45 in October. Counts greater than ten and breeding records are given below plus all records for counties with less than five sites during the year (number of pairs or broods in brackets). Please continue to submit all records to assist ongoing monitoring of this species.
- Essex Aimes Green, 14 on July 12th, mostly well grown juvs including 2-4 adults. Connaught Water (13), up to 26 in January (one tame bird with Mallards wears a gold-coloured ring), 65 in Nov. Earls Path Pond (7) in June. Epping Forest (13), 12 in 1999. Warren Pond, Chingford (1). Recorded at seven additional sites.
- Herts Borehamwood, four juveniles at Aberford Park Lake on July 15th and five on 22nd. Panshanger Park (3), four pairs on March 5th & April 1st. Recorded at 11 additional sites.
- Middx Bushy Park (3), 12 in Feb, up to 11 adults in May, 12 in December. Grovelands Park (2), 58 on Jan 11th, three pairs in May, 25 in December. Osterley Park, 12 in Apr. Stanmore Common (1). Trent Park (2), 12 in December. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, 11 in January, 13 in February and 11 in November. Wildwoods Lake, 28 in January and 11 in December. Recorded at eight additional sites.
- Bucks Black Park, ♂♀ on Jan 29th, ♂ on Feb 29th & Mar 5th. Wraysbury GP, two in February and April, four in May, one in June.
- Kent Bexley, Baldwyn's Park, one on April 18th. Crofton Heath (1), pair breeding in June. Footh Cray Meadows, one on April 9th and 27th. Sevenoaks WR, one in Jan 9th, two in Mar 4th, one on July 10th, Aug 14th and Sept 24th, two on Dec 29th.
- Surrey Claremont Lake, 26 on Oct 7th, of which four pinioned. Epsom Common (1), 17 in September. Gatton Park Lake, 15 in November. Godstone, 25 coming to grain at a garden pond in June. Richmond Park (3). Beverley Brook, ♀ and two juveniles on June 22nd, possibly first successful breeding. R. Thames, Sunbury, ♀ on June 23rd, five well grown juveniles on Aug 23rd. Recorded at ten additional sites
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on Jan 1st. Regent's Canal, St. John's Wood, ♂♀ on Mar 30th, April 4th & 10th, May 31st. Victoria Park, Hackney, ♂ Jan to March.

- 0179 Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
 Status: common winter visitor, with occasional summer records.

There were approximately 2,250 in the area in January and 1,635 in December, considerably fewer than in the same months last year (2,800 and 2,000 respectively). Monthly winter maxima from the main localities recording more than 50 birds are given in the table below. The table is followed by a listing of any counts exceeding 30 bird or late spring / summer records, as well as the only Inner London record.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Cornmill Meadows	234	121	189	27	33	90	122	25
	Hall Marsh	88	55	13	1	4	2	5	76
	Rainham Marsh	108						108	175
Herts	Amwell GP	68	84			56	54	34	106
	Hilfield Pk Res	49	17			5	8	17	54
	Stockers Lake	56	4	14		1	6	26	26
Middx	Broadwater Lake	311		32	2	36		50	
	Kempton Pk	220	426	154		57	60	188	192
	KG VI Res	8	96			263	358	168	93
	Staines Res	300	289	235	14	18	34	251	348
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	21	83	41	4	20	100	135	
	Woodlands Pk GP	80	76	100		10	16	42	52
Surrey	Richmond Pk	95	50	2		2	79	32	37
	Thorpe Pk	231	256	182		15	48	129	153
	Walton Res	358	122	63	9	34	94	113	271

Essex Fishers Green, 36 in February, two in April and May, and ♂ on June 11th with its right wing appeared to be damaged. King George V Res, 50 in January.

Herts Cheshunt GP, 74 in September. Troy Mill GP, 123 in October, 49 in November.

Middx Harefield, 300 in January. Ponders End Lake, 100+ in December. Stain Hill Res, 32 in September, 66 in November, 61 in December. Staines Moor, c40 in March.

Bucks Chalfont Park, 30 in January.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, 23 in December.

Surrey Barnes WWT, 31 in October. Beddington SF, two in April. Hersham GP, 51 in February, three in May, 46 in December.

In Lond Lambeth Bridge, one in October.

0182 Gadwall

Anas strepera

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

There were approximately 2,500 present in January, and 1,300 in December. Proof of breeding came from 15 sites. Counts from sites with over 100 are given in the table below, followed by details of breeding birds and notable isolated high counts from other sites, as well as Inner London records.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Rainham Marsh	215					30		112	89
	Walthamstow Res	56	29	12	6	1	18	14	82	111
Herts	Amwell GP	142	84	100	34	68	138	88	76	94
	Cheshunt GP					22	100		33	
	Stockers Lake	173	106							136
Middx	Brent Res	116	120	28	13	27	194	306	196	96
	Kempton Pk Res	255	156	23	3	65	156	124	86	70
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	431	390	331	8	51	197	165	64	23
Surrey	Barnes WWT	85	82	62	24	20	97	121	131	139
	Richmond Pk	238	108				11	76	56	94
	Thorpe Pk	249	129	9			26	57	73	87
	Walton Res	201	155	18	17	229	35	76	42	74

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, 13 in May, a brood in August. Fishers Green, six in May. Hall Marsh, 41 in January, two broods in June. Hooks Marsh, six broods. King George V Res, 34 in January, one brood in August. Netherhall GP, 108 in January.
- Herts Beech Farm, four in April. Bury Lake, 35 in January. Cheshunt GP, bred. Coopers Green GP, two pairs in May. Maple Lodge NR, 95 in August. Panshanger Park, two broods comprising of 15 young. Rye Meads SF, 90 in August, 19 broods comprising at least 143 young. Troy Mill GP, 89 in September. Tyttenhanger GP, three in June.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes, 62 in January. Broadwater Lake, 96 in November. Hampton Waterworks, one in July. Harefield Place GP, 15 in April. King George VI Res, 61 in November. Perry Oaks SF, three broods. Ponders End Lake, one brood. Queen Mary Res, 60 in December. Ruislip Lido, 86 in January. Stain Hill Res, 21 in June, 58 in September. Staines Moor, ten in May. Staines Res, 58 in February. Stanwell Moor, 14 in June. Stoke Newington Res, 88 in October. Wood Green Res, a pair in May. Wraysbury Res, 57 in March, three in May, one in July. Yiewsley GP, 43 in February.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, 12 in April, two in May, one in June. East Iver Lakes, 62 in January. Old Slade Lake, eight in April.
- Kent Crossness, four ♂ in May. Sevenoaks WR, 26 in January and December.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 50 in November. Island Barn Res, 71 in December. QE II Res, 89 in March. Walton Res, three broods, 131 in June.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, up to five from April 14th to Oct 4th, two pairs bred with ten young. Regent's Park, two in March.

0184 Teal *Anas crecca*

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

The highest counts at the beginning and end of the year were 650 and 486 at Beddington. Summer records are given under the respective county headings along with the highest sector count if not listed in the table. There was one brood at Rainham Marsh, a pair summered at Amwell, and a pair possibly bred at Beddington.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Essex	Barking Bay Marsh			110							
	Cornmill Meads	65	90	100	70	20	233	132	64		
	Creekmouth-Barking							236	186		
	Rainham Marsh	164					230		252	430	
	Walthamstow Res	106	60	44	32	1	16	42	85	74	
Herts	Rye Meads SF		125	85	21		58	125		268	
	Middx										
	Brent Res	80	25	40	54	3	16	83	65	120	
	KG VI Res	148	62	147	16	17	93	17	380	393	
Kent	Thames Barrier	430	202		100						
	Surrey	Barnes WWT	260	308	221	61	60	90	203	197	147
		Beddington SF	650	664	645	180	100	531	565	434	501
		Hersham GP	47	65	70	20		103	290	20	50
		R.Thames, Barnes/Putney	37	123				3		17	62
	Walton Res	54	58	41	41	58	90	22	163	233	

- Essex Rainham Marsh, pair bred.
 Herts Cooper's Green GP, one in May, Panshanger Park, two in June.
 Middx Broadwater Lake, one in May. Kempton Park Res, a pair in May and June. Shepperton, 100 in flooded field on Feb 9th.
 Bucks East Iver Lakes, 31 in September.
 Kent Swanscombe Marsh, 40 in October.
 Surrey Island Barn Res, 145 on Dec 29th. Morden Hall Park, pair nest prospecting in April. R. Thames between Barnes/Putney, 123 in February, 62 in December.
 In Lond Regents Park, one in September.

0186 Mallard***Anas platyrhynchos***

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident, with numbers increasing in winter.

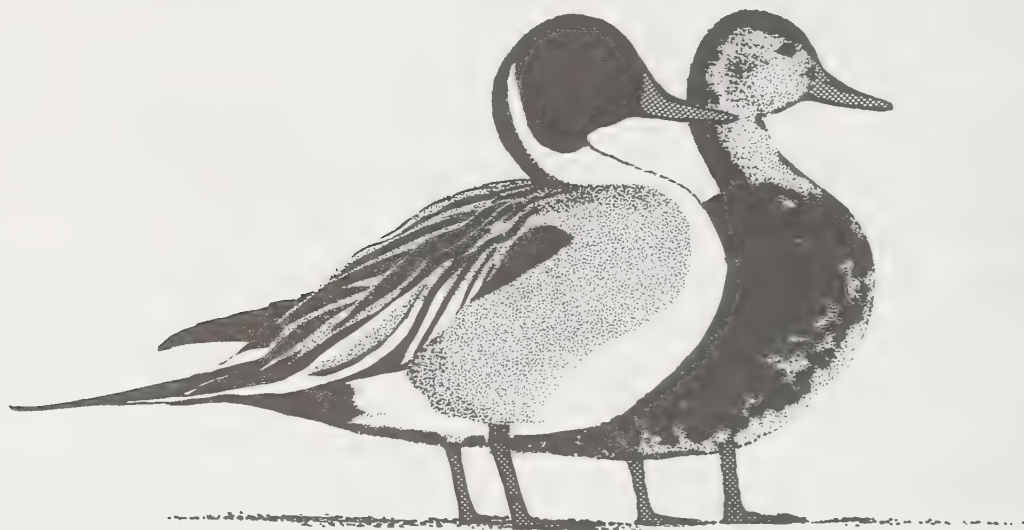
Reports were received from 151 sites, with breeding at 81. This is an increase from 116 and 36 last year, probably reflecting an increase in the number of reports. All sites are mentioned where there were at least 100 birds for some part of the year.

- Essex Reported from 41 sites, breeding at 40. Rainham Marsh, 185 in December. Walthamstow Res, 158 in January, 118 in February, 117 in March, 130 in April, 121 in August, 100 in October, 224 in November, 229 in December.
 Herts Reported from 14 sites, breeding at six. Amwell GP, 136 in January, 159 in October, 112 in November, 142 in December. Cheshunt GP, 173 in September. Rickmanswoth Aquadrome, 126 in December.
 Middx Reported from 22 sites, breeding at 11. Brent Res, 105 in July, 104 in September. Hampstead Heath, 163 in January, 143 in February, 106 in June, 144 in July, 170 in August, 185 in September, 227 in October, 183 in November, 202 in December. Osterley Park, 101 in June, 139 in July, 110 in August. Ruislip Lido, 101 in September, 153 in December. Wraysbury Res, 164 in August.
 Bucks Reported from seven sites, no mention of breeding. Chalfont Park, 143 in January.
 Kent Reported from 18 sites, breeding at three. Highest counts were 75 at Dartford Marsh in January and Fooks Cray Meadows in November.
 Surrey Reported from 35 sites, breeding at 15. Barnes WWT, 128 in February, 218 in September, 178 in November. R. Thames at Barnes, 218 in February. R. Thames at Putney, 346 in January, 218 in February, 533 in September, 192 in October, 505 in November, 504 in December. R. Wandle, 158 in December. Thorpe Water Park, 117 in December. Waddon Ponds, 120 in July, 125 in August, 170 in September.
 In Lond Reported from 12 sites, breeding at five. St. James's Park, 157 in September. Surrey Docks, 151 in February.

0189 Pintail***Anas acuta***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer records, declining.

The free-flying birds at St. James's Park probably contribute to most or all of the records at Barnes and some elsewhere, these are listed in Appendix 1. Reported from 20 sites this year, compared with 36 last year. All records are given.



- Essex Beckton, ♀ on Jan 17th. Netherhall GP, ♀ on Nov 5th. Rainham Marsh, ♀♀ on Jan 20th, one on Dec 17th. Walthamstow Res, a pair on March 4th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on June 28th, ♀ on July 17th, 21st & 27th. Cheshunt GP (70 Acres Lake), ♀ on Dec 31st. Maple Lodge NR, one on Dec 10th. Tyttenhanger GP, a pair on Jan 1st.
- Middx Brent Res, ♀ on Sept 9th. King George VI Res, three on Nov 23rd, six ♂ & seven ♀ on Dec 14th to 15th, 12 on 16th, ten on 17th, two on 18th 19th & 23rd Dec. Staines Res ♂♀ on Jan 22nd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Sept 22nd.
- Surrey QE II Res, ♂♀ on Jan 1st, three on Jan 26th, one S on Apr 2nd, ♂♀ on Dec 17th and two on Dec 27th. Walton Reservoir, ♂♀♀ Jan 26th and six on the 28th, one on Aug 24th and Sept 17th, ♀ on Dec 16th and ♂♀♀ on 24th.

0191 Garganey***Anas querquedula***

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter, very occasional breeder.

All records are given below. None were received from Kent. A pair bred on Stanwell Moor and juveniles were seen at Beddington.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one from July 23rd to Aug 6th. Hall Marsh, ♂ on May 11th. Holyfield Lake, ♂ on May 1st. King George V Res, ♂ on April 1st. Rainham Marsh, two possibly a pair on June 1st. Thames Barrier, ♂ on March 20th. Walthamstow Res, ♀ on June 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, ♂ on Feb 5th, intermittently until April 24th. Eclipse ♂ Aug until Sept 9th. Rye Meads, ♂ in January & February, one on July 30th, Oct 8th and Oct 22nd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Aug 11th, ♀ on Sept 17th.

- Middx East India Dock Basin, ♂ on May 13th. Kempton Park Res, ♂♀ on May 10th, one on Sept 13th, 15th and 17th. King George VI Res, ♂♀ on April 19th and 23rd, ♂♀ on June 4th, one on July 25th. Staines Moor, possibly breeding ♂♀ from March 28th to May 3rd, ♂♀♀ on May 3rd, 4th and 12th. Staines Res, ♂ on April 13th to 16th, with a ♀ on Apr 14th, neither from Stanwell Moor. Stanwell Moor, ♂♀ from April 9th until September, ♀ with four downy young on Aug 20th, up to four in September, down to three by 25th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two on April 9th and May 7th, one on July 23rd.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, ♂ on May 11th to 14th, ♂♂ on May 22nd, ♂ on May 24th, 1-4 between Aug 27th and Oct 14th. Beddington SF, ♂♀ flew over on Apr 4th, ♂ from May 6th to 25th, ♀ and two juveniles on July 7th, three juveniles on 13th, five juveniles on July 15th and 16th, decreasing to four from July 18th, two from 21st until Aug 20th and one finally seen on Aug 22nd. Hersham GP, ♂ on May 9th. Walton Res, ♂♂ on May 8th and ♀ on June 17th.

0192 Blue-winged Teal***Anas discors***

Status: rare vagrant.

- Essex Walthamstow Res, ♀/imm from 15.35 to 16.00 on Nov 4th (DGDL).

Another brief appearance of this rare Nearctic duck in the London area. This was the fifth London record. Like the last record this was discovered in the evening and was not present the following morning. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0194 Shoveler***Anas clypeata***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with birds often recorded in summer.

The only breeding records were five broods at Rainham Marsh, one pair breeding at Rye Meads, and four half-grown juveniles at Brent Reservoir. Details of breeding or summering birds, highest county counts if not in the table, and all Inner London records are listed below. One or more birds were present at 22 sites between May and July. All sites with counts of 100 or over are in the table and 30 or more are listed below.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Walthamstow Res	54	28	18	4	77	75	157	120	49
	Herts	Amwell GP	25	34	45	3	40	108	94	36
	Stockers Lake	44	130							
Middx	Brent Res	31		2	12	30	183	106	29	11
	Kempton Pk Res	58	89	46	6	20	45	108	19	42
	KG VI Res		176	160		44	125	47	141	93
	Staines Res	372	235	77	1	8	15	104	6	43
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	18	12	19	5	29	100	37	174	8
	Surrey	Barnes WWT	141	164	112		33	86	70	61
Beddington SF		95	95	70	16	107	125	114	111	94
QE II Res		25	9	6	3	110	24	9	6	5
Walton Res		45	37	47	139	238	193	189	85	220

- Essex Dagenham Chase, 44 in October. Eagle Pond, 40 in January. Hall Marsh, 35 in March. Rainham Marsh, 255 in November.
- Herts Broxbourne GP, 64 in January. Cheshunt GP, 58 in September. Hilfield Park Res, 62 in January. Rye Meads, four ♂ in June, one pair bred. Rye Meads SF, 69 in September, 46 in October.
- Middx Brent Res, bred, four juveniles in August. Broadwater Lake, 38 in December. Kempton Park NR, a pair in May and June courtship flight was seen. Ponders End Lake, ♂ in May. Stanwell Moor, four in June. Stoke Newington Res, 156 in October. Wrybury Res, 158 in August.
- Bucks East Iver Lakes, 70 in January.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, 35 in October, 45 in November, 34 in December.
- Surrey Hersham GP, seven in June. Kew Gardens, pair in May.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, two on Jan 19th and between Oct 4th and Dec 13th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 48 on Jan 19th. Lambeth Bridge, ♂ on Oct 23rd. Regent's Park, 18 in January. Victoria Park, Hackney, five on Mar 4th.

0196 Red-crested Pochard***Netta rufina***

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, with its true status clouded by frequent escapes.

It is, as always, impossible to differentiate between escaped/feral birds and genuine wild arrivals, so the cautionary caveat regarding the origins of any record still applies. All records are given with the exception of those which relate to obvious escapees, these being shown under Appendix 1.

- Herts Bury Lake, ♂♀ on Feb 13th (HB). Cheshunt GP (North Met Pit), ♂♀ on Feb 15th (SC). Stockers Lake, ♂♀ on Feb 4th and 12th (PL,GJW).
- Middx Harmondsworth Moor, one on Mar 12th (RS). Stocker's West GP, ♀ on Jan 3rd, ♂♀ from Jan 4th to 12th (CL,PL,AVM).
- Bucks Wrybury GP, ♂♀ on Jan 16th followed by ♀ on the 19th and 26th (CDRH,CLy).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, three on Sept 13th and one on the 30th (EB,DM,JPW). Holmethorpe SP, ♀ on Apr 24th (SWG). Painshill Park (Cobham), ♀ on Oct 24th (NJM). Queen Elizabeth II Res, ♀ (from late December 1999) on Jan 1st and 30th (DMH,SJS). R. Thames (Hammersmith), ♂♀ on Nov 19th (NA). Riverside Open Spaces (Molesey), one flying low over the Thames on Feb 9th (JF). Walton Res, ♀ between July 10th and Sept 11th (DMH,SJS,AQ).

0198 Pochard***Aythya ferina***

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

The number of broods/nests reported this year was a little worrying, just 47 compared to 65 last year and 66 in 1998. These broods were reported from a total of 12 sites but it should be noted that birds were present at some point during the breeding season at a further 29 sites (19 in 1999),

so there may be some broods going undetected by observers. Observers are requested to continue to submit details of all breeding activity, or lack of it, for this nationally scarce breeding species. The table below shows the number of reported broods since 1990

Year	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
Broods	62	70	64	65	58	46	56	42	64	65	31

Numbers during January were not exceptional with c1,810 birds scattered across 50 sites. In December there were c1,285 birds reported from 36 sites. The most significant autumn count was of 278 at Hilfield Park Res on Aug 20th, this count also constituting the best single count for the year as a whole. Peak monthly counts from all localities where more than 150 were present at some point during the year are given below in tabular format. Details of breeding and summering birds, and Inner London site maxima, are listed in the text under the respective county heading.

		<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Essex	Walthamstow Res	169	158	118	114	33	206	145	156
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	97	12	13	278	152	17	23	71
Middx	Broadwater Lake	269	172	80	4			26	42
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	206	164	211	47				
Surrey	Island Barn Res	42	9	6	0	10	47	68	160

- Essex** Holyfield Lake, two broods. Rainham Marsh, one brood. Walthamstow Res, 11 broods.
- Herts** Amwell GP, one brood. Maple Lodge NR, five broods. Rye Meads SF, three broods. Stanstead Abbots GP, two pairs in May.
- Middx** Alexandra Park, two broods. Bedford Lakes CP, four in May. Clissold Park, four broods. Finsbury Park, five pairs present during the breeding season but no evidence of breeding. Groveland Park, five on June 5th. Hampton Waterworks, five on June 25th. Ponders End Lake, five on June 6th. Tottenham Cemetery, three pairs in May. Wood Green Res, 20 in April, 18 in May and one June.
- Bucks** Wraysbury GP, four in April and five in May.
- Kent** Sevenoaks WR, three in May.
- Surrey** Barnes WWT, one brood. Beddington SF, two in April and three in May. Kew Gardens, 1 brood. Lonsdale Road Res, no breeding this year. Island Barn Res, 1 brood. Walton Res, one brood.
- In Lond** Buckingham Palace, a maximum of six on June 3rd, two nests (13 young from 15 eggs). Burgess Park Lake, 14 on Feb 1st. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 48 on Jan 19th. Regent's Canal, one brood. Regent's Park, c14 nests. R. Thames (Lambeth Bridge), one on Mar 17th. St. James's Park, bred, 93 on Nov 22nd. Surrey Docks, two on Feb 1st. Victoria Park, six on May 10th.

0200 Ring-necked Duck***Aythya collaris***

Status: rare vagrant.

Surrey Walton Res, ♂ at 06.34 flew off NE towards the Middx sector (either Stain Hill Res or Hampton Waterworks) at 09.45hrs on Apr 7th. It was then refound at Walton Res at 16.02hrs but had departed by the following day (DMH, NJM).

The 14th record for the London Area. Disappearing birds are not unprecedented in the London area, a female found in late September in 1995 on the King George V Res was only seen on thirteen dates during its seven month stay!

0203 Tufted Duck***Aythya fuligula***

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

This year a total of at least 179 broods were reported from 62 sites (208 from 42 in 1999), but as in previous years this number is minimal as there were reports of groups of ducklings from an unspecified number of broods, as well as reports of a further 58 pairs present during the breeding season (from nine sites); additionally, many more birds were present at some point during the breeding season at a number of locales. So as in 1999, the actual number of broods is likely to be significantly higher than the 179 reported. Reported broods/breeding pairs in recent years have fluctuated between the 200-300 mark and although the population is probably currently stable observers are requested to submit details of all breeding activity and/or summering pairs.

Peak numbers during January cumulatively totalled some 5,590 birds reported from 55 sites (6,600 from 65 in 1999). The best individual count for the first-winter period came from Thorpe Water Park with 798 on Feb 6th. Counts exceeding 1,000 birds during the July/August moult period were received for two sites: 1,621 at Walthamstow Res on July 26th followed by two counts from Staines Res; 1,061 on July 30th and 1,243 on Aug 20th. At the end of the year counts were received from 49 sites in December with the number of birds, cumulatively, at about 6,075 (6,650 from 49 sites in 1999). The best count in December was at Wraysbury GP with 1,750 on Dec 17th. Overall, this species was reported for a total of 152 sites (127 in 1999).

Details of large breeding concentrations, July and August moulting flocks of over 50 and the highest county counts where these were less than 500, along with Inner London site maxima, are given in the text under the respective county heading. Peak monthly counts from all principal localities that held in excess of 500 birds at some during the year are given below in tabular form.

		<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Essex	Walthamstow Res	620	548	526	489	766	843	564	644
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	616	560	183	197	35	660	450	1750
Surrey	Thorpe Water Park	664	798	386		196	106	331	477

- Essex Fishers Green, 25 pairs during April-May. King George V Res, 910 on Aug 15th. Netherhall GP, 69 on Aug 27th. Rainham Marsh, five broods. Valentines Park, nine broods. Walthamstow Res, 21 broods, 1,621 on July 26th. Wanstead Park, six pairs during the breeding season. Wm Girling Res, 406 on July 8th and 705 on Aug 4th
- Herts Amwell GP, 54 on Aug 27th. Cheshunt GP, 94 on Aug 5th. Hilfield Park Res, 108 on Aug 20th. Rye Meads SF, 32 pairs bred, 74 on Aug 27th.
- Middx Brent Res, 59 on July 23rd. Broadwater Lake, 293 on Aug 22nd. Hampstead Heath, 77 on Aug 20th. Hampton Waterworks, 189 on Aug 13th. Harefield Place GP, 50 on Aug 20th. King George VI Res, 961 on Aug 6th. Queen Mary Res, 67 on Aug 20th. Stain Hill Res, 78 on Aug 5th and 13th. Staines Res, 1,061 on July 30th and 1,243 on Aug 20th. Wraysbury Res, 754 on Aug 20th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 111 on July 23rd and 210 on Aug 20th.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 71 on Aug 26th. Sevenoaks WR, 268 on July 31st and 332 on Oct 21st.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, 12 broods. Barnes, seven pairs during the breeding season. Beddington SF, 13 territories (four in 1999), a site record, 64 on July 1st. Island Barn Res, 187 on July 31st and 179 on Aug 30th. QE II Res, 566 on Aug 23rd. Walton Res, 499 on Aug 4th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, bred, 16 on June 23rd. Burgess Park, 23 on Feb 1st. Canada Water, 26 on July 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, bred, 121 on Dec 13th. Paddington Green, singles flew over in February and September. Primrose Hill, two W on Apr 10th. Regent's Canal (St. John's Wood), one pair bred and raised four young. R. Thames (Lambeth Bridge), one on Dec 13th. St. James' Park, bred, 101 (including six young) on Sept 13th. Surrey Docks, 114 on Feb 1st. Victoria Park, 62 in March.

0204 Scaup***Aythya marila***

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one from December 1999 until Mar 27th (KB). King George V Res, one between Mar 28th and Apr 4th, then a different bird between Apr 5th and 11th which was joined by a second bird between Apr 7th and 15th (RMC,SC,JFk,PJV).
- Herts Cheshunt GP, a first-winter ♂ on Feb 14th and ♀ from Mar 4th to 17th (IK *et al*). Rye Meads SF, one on Mar 16th (RMRG).
- Middx Brent Res, singles on Nov 4th and Dec 20th, two from Dec 21st to 31st (JPC,ASMS). King George VI Res, singles on Aug 20th and Nov 4th (PN). Wraysbury Res, one on Jan 17th and 18th, two on 20th, one on 22nd, five on the 27th, one on the 28th followed by singles on Feb 11th and 18th and Aug 1st (CDRH,CL,AVM,KLP).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, four between Jan 1st and Mar 9th, five between Mar 10th and 20th and one on the 22nd (RMRG,CDRH,DH,CL,AVM).
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one on Dec 25th (ML,BEW).

- Surrey Barnes WWT, one between Jan 24th and Apr 7th (mo). Holmethorpe SP, one between Jan 16th and 27th (SWG,GJ,KN,JJW). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Jan 21st and 22nd (DMH,SJS). Walton Res, one between Feb 2nd and 4th followed by one on 21st (SJS).
- In Lond Surrey Docks, one 1st winter ♂ on Canada Water on Feb 1st at least (RK,DTM).

A good showing this year with some 26 records relating to c34 birds, from 16 sites (excluding birds remaining from 1999). The largest flocks of the year were five at Wraysbury GP on Mar 10th and 20th and five at Wraysbury Res on Jan 27th.

0206 Eider *Somateria mollissima*
Status: scarce visitor, usually in winter.

- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, ♀ which arrived on Nov 21st 1998 was last seen on Mar 13th (DG,DMH,SJS).

No new birds this year so the number of London Area records remains at 45. It is not unusual for this species to stay a long time, so 1.5 years isn't unprecedented.

0212 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*
Status: scarce but annual visitor.

- Herts Troy Mill GP, ♀ on Mar 19th (TS).
Middx Broadwater Lake, ♀ present since 1999 intermittently reported up to Apr 27th (mo).
Bucks Tilehouse North Lake, ♀ on Jan 27th (DR).

1991 Addition

- Middx Broadwater Lake, two on Mar 16th.

All records relate to the regularly returning wintering female which has now reappeared for its 10th consecutive year. There were no new records for the year.

0213 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*
Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, ♂♂ on July 22nd (AJAD). King George V Res, ♀ from Dec 20th and into 2001 (SC,AM,PJV). Rainham Marsh, seven (five ♂) on July 7th, ♂♂♀ on the 22nd and ♀ on the 25th (KB,PF,HV,PJV). Wm Girling Res, ♂ on June 3rd and ♀ on Dec 17th (AM,PJV).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, ♂ between July 18th and 23rd, six (five ♂) on the 26th and ♀♀♀/immatures on Dec 17th (GSE). Tyttenhanger GP, ♀ from May 5th to 7th (WH *et al*).
- Middx Staines Res, ♂♂ on June 28th and 30th (CDRH,CL,KLP).

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, ♂ on Aug 11th, 11 (at least four ♂) on the 21st (flew off south) and one immature on Nov 3rd (JAS).
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, six (five ♂) on July 4th, seven (five ♂) on the 13th, ♂♂ on the 22nd and ♀ on Oct 11th (DMH).

A better showing than in 1999 with a minimum of c49 birds (16 records) reported from nine sites. Birds were recorded in every month between May and August and October and December. The largest flock of the year comprised 11 at Queen Mother Res on Aug 21st.

0218 Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer records.

Peak first-winter period counts were 50 at Wraysbury GP on Jan 15th, 88 at King George V Res on Mar 11th and 12th and 123 at Staines Res on Mar 12th (which was also the best overall count for the year as a whole). The last bird in spring was a female at Broadwater Lake on May 20th and the first arrival in autumn was at Hilfield Park Res on the early date of June 13th. Second-winter period counts were not inspirational, the best being 63 at Staines Res on Dec 2nd (the next highest count being 24 at Queen Elizabeth II Res on Dec 27th).

Peak monthly counts from all principal localities (where more than 20 were reported) are given in the table below. Following this, records from sites with peak counts of five or more are given in the text under the respective county heading.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	KGV Res			88	30	3	15	
	Walthamstow Res	17	22	11				13
Herts	Amwell GP	13	22	25			3	12
	Stockers Lake	34	27	6			5	5
Middx	Broadwater Lake	26	26	29	14	1	12	15
	KGVI Res	3	30	15	2	1	11	7
	Staines Res	82	122	123	122	3	27	63
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	50	48	17	5	4		5
Surrey	Queen Elizabeth II Res	12	11	20	14	8	15	24
	Thorpe WP	38	29	11			11	11

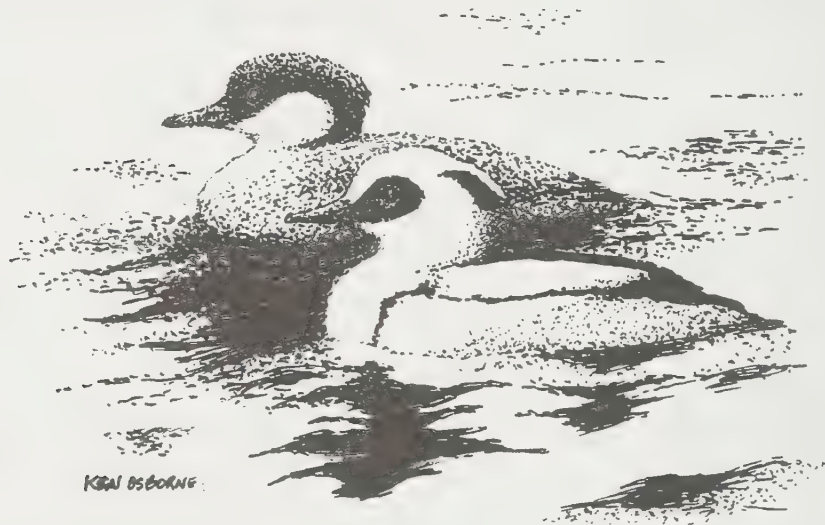
- Essex Banbury Res, five on Jan 3rd, two on the 9th and three on Dec 30th. Fisher's Green, five on Jan 1st and Dec 29th.
- Herts Cheshunt GP, 11 on Jan 28th, nine on Feb 23rd, six on Mar 31st, one on Apr 7th and five on Dec 29th.
- Middx Hampton Waterworks, six on Jan 29th, Feb 13th, four on Mar 12th, one on Oct 23rd, two on Nov 28th and three on both Dec 9th and 17th. Moorhall GP, eight on Jan 16th and six on the 29th. Shepperton GP, 18 on Feb 13th and two on Dec 31st. Stain Hill Res, two on Jan 16th, six on Feb 13th, one on Mar 12th, two on Nov 19th and one on Dec 17th. Wraysbury Res, five on Jan 22nd, one on Feb 11th, five on Mar 13th, three on Apr 10th, one on Sept 2nd and 5th.

- Kent Sevenoaks WR, seven on Jan 19th and 29th, eight on Feb 21st and Mar 4th, one on Apr 12th, Oct 24th, four on Nov 9th and 20th and five on Dec 20th.
- Surrey Field Common GP, two on Jan 2nd, 19 on Feb 19th, five on Mar 4th, three on Nov 30th and four on Dec 29th. Island Barn Res, one on Jan 27th, two on Feb 6th, singles on Mar 4th and May 18th, three on Nov 25th and five on Dec 24th.

0220 Smew***Mergellus albellus***

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

In January up to 116 birds were reported from 30 sites (159 from 29 sites in 1999) with a drop in numbers to 62 birds at 16 sites in February (142 from 22 sites in 1999). In March nine birds were reported from seven sites (nine from five in 1999). The last bird in spring was a single at Wraysbury GP on Mar 20th and the first returning birds in winter were three female/immatures at Stocker's Lake on Nov 19th. The number of birds reported in November totalled just six at four sites (15 from seven in 1999) rising to a somewhat paltry c62 birds at 16 sites in December (68 from 16 in 1999). The best single count of the year was 23 at Wraysbury GP on Dec 17th and this species was reported from a total of 36 sites during the course of year (41 in 1999 and 36 in 1998).



Records from all sites where the species was reported, with peak counts from January to March and November to December given in parenthesis.

- Essex Holyfield Lake (10:0). Netherhall GP (2:1). Turnford Marsh GP (2:0). Walthamstow Res (4:1).
- Herts Amwell GP (8:4). Batchworth Lakes (1:0). Bowyers GP (1:0). Broxbourne GP (4:0). Bury Lake (2:0). Cheshunt GP (13:7). Hilfield Park Res (1:0). Stocker's Lake (3:3). Tilehouse GP (3:0). Troy Mill GP (1:0). Tyttenhanger GP (1:0).

- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (3:0). Brent Res (0:1). Broadwater Lake (7:2). Denham Studios GP (9:3). Harefield Place GP (1:0). King George VI Res (0:1). Moorhall GP (4:2). Sheepwalk, Shepperton (2:2). Staines Res (1:0). Wraysbury Res (2:0).
- Bucks Horton GP (2:0). Thorney CP (4:0). Tilehouse North Lake (5:1). Wraysbury GP (22:23).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR (2:2).
- Surrey Fieldcommon GP (1:0). Island Barn Res (1:0). Molesey (1:0). Thorpe Water Park (9:2).

0221 Red-breasted Merganser*Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

A much better showing than 1999 with 21 records relating to about 29 birds (three records totalling nine birds in 1999). A total of 15 sites reported birds. The largest count of the year was of four at Queen Elizabeth II Res on Nov 23rd. All records are given, including an excellent one for Inner London.

- Essex King George V Res, ♀ from Jan 1st to Apr 4th (mo). Royal Victoria Dock, one 1st-winter ♂ on Apr 14th (SRH). Wm Girling Res, ♀ from Jan 1st to 24th followed by one on Oct 22nd (SC,PJV).
- Middx Brent Res, ♂♀ on Apr 2nd flew off at 08.30 hrs (ASMS). King George VI Res, ♂♀ on Apr 9th (PN,KLP). Staines Moor, singles on Mar 17th and 28th followed by ♂♂ on Apr 14th (RM). Staines Res, ♀ from Feb 9th to Mar 19th (CL,PL *et al*), ♀ on Apr 19th (PN, KLP) and ♀/immature between Nov 10th and Dec 17th (CL *et al*). Wraysbury Res, ♀ on Feb 18th and Mar 9th (CL,KLP).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Jan 13th may have been the Staines Res bird (NA).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one ♀/immature on Nov 7th (DWT).
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Nov 23rd (BBR). Queen Elizabeth II Res, four ♀/immatures on Nov 23rd until 15.12hrs when they flew off high S (DMH). Walton Res, ♀ on Mar 31st and an eclipse ♂ until 16.20 on July 20th (DMH,AQ).
- In Lond Hyde Park, ♂♀ seen on The Serpentine at 14.45 on Dec 21st, but had departed by the following day (JBo,PSy).

0223 Goosander*Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Reported from a total of 63 sites this year (66 in 1999). The best count of the year was of 57 at Queen Elizabeth II Res on Feb 25th. The last sighting in spring was a single bird at King George VI Res on Apr 24th though a male seen at Thorney Weir on June 5th was more unusual. In autumn the first bird was logged on Sept 2nd at Wraysbury GP.

Peak monthly counts from the principal localities (where 20 or more were reported at some point during the year) are given below in tabular form, with the highest county counts (where these are lower) given in the text under the respective county heading.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Nazeing GP	11						20
	Wm Girling Res	27		6	3		7	
Middx	Denham Ct GP	23						3
	Pear Wood, Stanmore		22					
	Wraysbury Res	34	28	18				2
Surrey	Queen Elizabeth II Res	40	57	44	7	1	4	35
	Walton Res	31	28	17	10	2	4	16

Herts Stocker's Lake, ten on Mar 7th and 12th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 19 on Jan 16th.

Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Feb 11th.

0225 Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Status: widespread winter visitor of feral origin, localised breeder.

At least 12 pairs bred this year (19 in 1999) but some records were submitted referring to brood numbers rather than the actual number of breeding pairs, so the above figure is a minimal one, as some pairs may be unsuccessful. In addition, a further 19 pairs were reported as summering (nine in 1999). Hilfield Park Res continued its dominance as the London Area's prime wintering locale with a peak count of 352 birds during the first-winter period, though this year the best second-winter period count came from Staines Res with 186 birds on Dec 31st. As yet, the well publicised current efforts to reduce the national population by culling has had little impact on the London Area's wintering numbers, but this is a situation which may well alter in the not too distant future.

Peak monthly counts from the principal localities (those were 20 or more birds were reported at some point during the year) are given below in tabular form; with details of breeding and summering birds, as well as any Inner London records, given in the text under the respective county heading.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	KGV Res	12	15	7				6
	Walthamstow Res	37	27	7	2	7	22	30
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	352	325	238	126	124	83	147
Middx	Brent Res	2	13	9	50	62	38	13
	Broadwater Lake	105	13	20	5	7	137	99
	Kempton Park Res	16	34	41	3	11	6	15
	Staines Res	161	132	82	4	20	91	186
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	26	18	7		4	3	2
Surrey	Walton Res	17	6	12	9	26	32	42

- Essex Corbets Tey, three pairs summered. Dagenham Chase, one pair during the breeding season. Holyfield Lake, one pair during the breeding season. Hornchurch CP, two broods. South Park (Ilford), one brood. Walthamstow Res, two pairs attempted to breed on the West Warwick.
- Herts Cheshunt GP (70 Acres GP), ♂ displaying on May 12th. Hilfield Park Res, three broods. Maple Lodge NR, two broods. Verulamium Lake, two pairs summered.
- Middx Brent Res, three broods plus one pair nested on a tern raft but were predated by Magpies and Carrion Crows. Kempton Park Res, at least one pair bred. Ponders End Lake, one pair summered. Ruislip Lido, one pair bred. Stain Hill Res, ♂♂ displaying. The Causeway NR, four pairs bred.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, a juvenile on Aug 27th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, three pairs including a displaying ♂ on June 24th. Lonsdale Road Res, two pairs on Mar 19th including a displaying ♂. Walton Res, four broods.
- In Lond St. James's Park, two on Sept 13th, three on Oct 4th, two on Nov 22nd and one on Dec 13th.

0231 Honey Buzzard*Pernis apivorus*

Status: scarce visitor

- Essex Chingford, four on Sept 23rd (PGr,PJV). Colliers Hatch, one on Sept 23rd (AJG). Dagenham, one on Sept 23rd (VHF) and two on Sept 26th (PDn). Dagenham Chase, singles on Sept 23rd (VHF) and 28th (KB). Epping Forest, one on Sept 24th (MDt,HV). Essex Filter Beds, singles on Sept 24th, 30th and Oct 2nd (GJ). Fishers Green, one on Sept 24th (SC). King George V Res, one on Sept 22nd (SC) and one on Sept 23rd (AMi). Orsett Fen, one on Sept 29th. Sewardstone, two on Sept 22nd (AM) two on Sept 23rd (PAB) one on Sept 28th (AM). Waltham Abbey, one on Sept 23rd (SC). Wanstead Park, one on Sept 23rd. West Ham, two on Sept 23rd (HV).
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Sept 21st (BR), Sept 27th (GJW). Beech Farm GP, one on Sept 28th (GJW). Cheshunt GP, one on Sept 25th (ADW). Hilfield Park Res, one on Sept 23rd (GJW). Prae Wood, one on Sept 26th (GJW). Rye Meads SF, two on Sept 27th (GJW). South Oxhey, singles on Sept 23rd and Oct 1st (GSE). Tyttenhanger GP, two on Sept 25th (GJW). West Hyde, one on Oct 1st (AVM).
- Middx Brent Res, one on Sept 23rd (LAB), three on 24th (LAB, RB, JJ, AGV) and one on 26th (LAB). Hampstead Heath, three on Sept 23rd, one on 24th, two on 30th, two on Oct 4th (WEO). Harefield, one on Sept 17th (AVM). Horsenden Hill, one on Oct 1st (AJC). Hounslow Heath, one on Sept 29th (JHt). Kempton Park, two on Oct 5th (SJS). Shepperton, two on Sept 28th (CRP). Vicarage Farm, singles on Sept 25th, 27th and 30th, four on Oct 1st (RMC).

- Bucks Denham, one on Sept 27th (CL). Old Slade Lake, one on Sept 29th (PGn). Queen Mother Res, singles on Sept 28th (PGn). Thorney CP, one on Sept 30th (CL). Wraysbury GP, one on Oct 2nd (CDRH).
- Kent Dartford, QE2 Bridge, one on Sept 26th (CG). Dartford Heath, one on Sept 26th (AJM). Eltham, one on Sept 23rd (RJW). Petts Wood, one on Sept 27th (RSy). Sevenoaks WR, singles on Sept 26th and Oct 2nd (MC).
- Surrey Addlestone, one on Sept 25th (JGs). Banstead, one on Sept 22nd (SWG). Barnes WWT, singles on Sept 29th and 30th (DMk, JPPW). Beddington SF, one on Sept 21st, three on Sept 23rd, one on 24th, one on 25th, three on 28th, one on Oct 1st and one on 4th (PA,GDJM,KJM,BBR). Berrylands, one on Sept 30th (NT). Brixton, singles on Oct 6th (JF). Chelsham, singles on Sept 24th, 25th and 28th (BJT). Chessington, one on Sept 23rd (AGs). Epsom Downs, four on Sept 30th (SWG). Ham, one on Sept 29th (PBa). Hersham GP, one on Sept 26th and four on Oct 1st (SJS). Hooley, one on Sept 25th (IF). Island Barn Res, one on Sept 29th (SJS). Kingston, one on Sept 29th (JHt). Leatherhead, singles on Oct 4th (TJ). Limpsfield Chart, one on Aug 13th (PJO). Putney, two on Sept 27th (RJA). Richmond Park, two on Sept 25th (MB,JBt), one on 26th (SCi), four on 27th (SCi, TH), three on 28th (SCi) and one on Oct 1st (SCi). Selsdon Wood, three on Sept 25th (JRW, RDW). South Norwood, one on Sept 23rd (JF). South Norwood Lake, one on Sept 30th and seven on Oct 1st (JF). Wandsworth, one on Oct 1st (RK). Warlingham, one on Sept 29th (BHy). Wimbledon Common, one on Sept 23rd (MD).
- In Lond Bethnal Green, two on Sept 28th (RJW). Regent's Canal, St John's Wood, one on Sept 25th (DTM). Regent's Park, seven on Sept 22nd, singles on Sept 25th, Oct 1st and 2nd (ARD, DJ). South Kensington (TP,SS). Vauxhall, one on Sept 28th (JBk).

The autumn influx of Honey Buzzards was totally unprecedented and was easily the event of the year. One in August was just the 33rd record for London and the first for four years. From September 21st to Oct 14th there were 161 records, some of which involved small flocks. A full account of this influx can be found on page 191, which includes all birds reported to birdlines and other information services.

0239 Red Kite

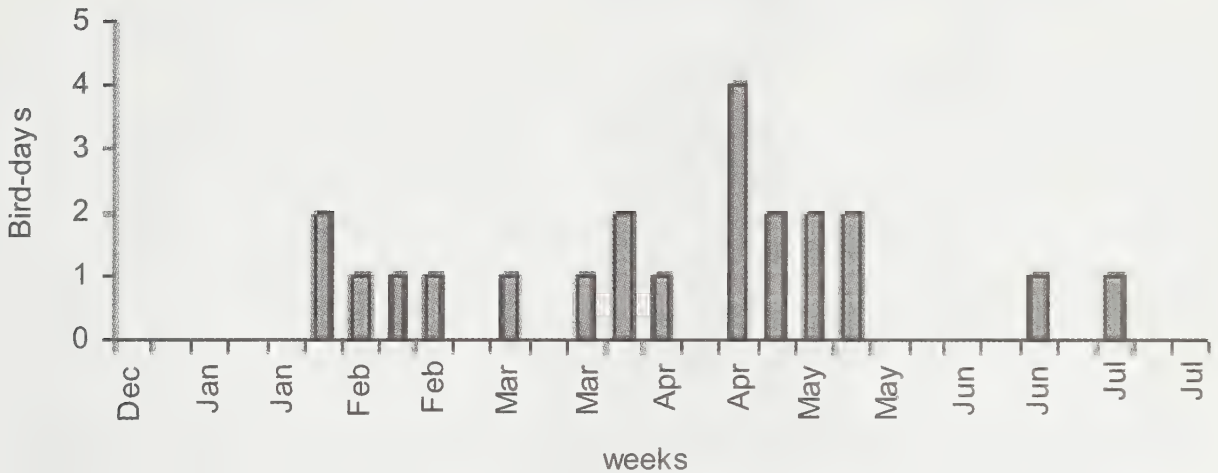
Milvus milvus

Status: scarce visitor

- Middx Brent Res, one flew over Wembley Stadium then N over the reservoir at 11.00 on Apr 23rd (ASMS).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, two flew over at 18.55 on May 7th (RJA). Beddington SF, one flew over NW on Apr 9th and another flew E on May 6th. Cheam, one flew over at 11.00 WSW on Apr 29th(AGs).

Five records of six birds, all of which were seen in a four week period in Spring. The absence of records from the East of our area tends to suggest that these were wanderers from the Chilterns rather than

Red Kite bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



migrants from the Continent. The histogram above, which excludes a single December record, shows that late April is the peak time for this majestic raptor for the last five years

0260 Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

Status: scarce but increasing passage migrant.

Essex Sewardstone, one on May 13th (BB).

Herts Amwell, ♀/imm on Sept 21st, ♂ on Sept 22nd, and ♀/imm on Sept 29th (BR). Beech Farm GP, a juvenile on Aug 12th (GJW). Rye Meads SF, ♀ on Mar 29th (RMRG), one on Apr 2nd (JMh). Tyttenhanger GP, one on Aug 12th (SPe) was the same as the one at Beech Farm.

Middx Kempton NR, ♂ on Apr 9th (WK).

Kent Dartford Marsh, ♀ flew N on May 7th (PR).

Surrey Barnes WWT, ♀ on May 24th (JPPW). Beddington SF, ♀/imm flew N on Apr 11th; ♀/imm flew NW on Apr 15th; ♀/imm flew N on Apr 16th; ♂♀ flew NE on May 6th; ♀/imm on Aug 8th; ♀/imm flew SE on Aug 11th; ♀/imm flew SE and two ♀/imms flew S on Sept 23rd; two ♀/imms flew S separately on Sept 24th; and ♀/imm flew NW on Oct 22nd (BBR).

A minimum of 22 records, the highest ever annual total, boosted by the dedicated bunch of sky-watchers at Beddington where virtually half of the all the records were seen.

Harrier sp.

Circus sp.

Surrey Chelsham, Nore Hill, a dark phase bird flew S at 17.00 on Aug 12th (BJT).

This bird was considered by the observer to be a Montagu's Harrier.

0269 Sparrowhawk***Accipiter nisus***

Status: common breeding resident.

	Pairs proved breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pair present	Total
Essex	5	67	5	77
Herts	6	4	1	11
Middx	9	3	4	16
Bucks	2	23+	-	25+
Kent	2	2	8	12
Surrey	7	3	7	17
In Lond	5	1	3	9
Totals	36	103	28	167+

Essex A large increase in the total numbers of pairs to 77 (42 in 1999), although the pairs proved breeding has dropped from 22 to five. Recorded from 59 sites.

Herts A reduction in total pairs from 18 to 11. Recorded from 20 sites.

Middx Virtually no change in total pairs; recorded from 37 sites.

Bucks The figure of 25+ pairs is an estimate (total of 16 in 1999) and is more realistic than the four sites Sparrowhawks were actually recorded from.

Kent A total of 12 pairs is similar to the 1998 figure (15) and last year's six was probably due to under-recording. Recorded from 27 sites.

Surrey A large reduction in total pairs from 32 to 17, it is hoped that this is only due to under-recording, although they were recorded from 90 sites, up from 76.

In Lond A small increase to nine (from 5 in 1999), recorded from 23 sites.

The total number of pairs was very similar to the 167 in 1997.

0287 Common Buzzard***Buteo buteo***

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/visitor.

Essex Coopersale, one on Mar 5th (SRH). Copped Hall, up to three throughout the year (mo). Fishers Green, singles on Jan 9th (IK) and Oct 4 (KB). Hall Marsh, one on Jan 30th (PBI, JFk). Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Jan 5th (AM). Holyfield Lake, two on Mar 11th (PHe). King George V Res, one on Oct 1st (PJV). Pole Hill, singles on Mar 18th (SC) and Apr 5th (PAB). Upshire, two in Warlies Park area on Dec 2nd (AM). Waltham Abbey Woods, one on Jan 30th (PBI). Wm Girling Res, one on Sept 27th (PJV).

Herts Abbots Langley, one on May 13th (BCs). Amwell GP, one to three seen on 12 dates and four seen daily between Sept 21st to 29th (mo). Brookmans Park, one on Sept 23rd (AM) and one on Oct 8th (RPh). Broxbourne Woods, three on Oct 1st (IK). Croxley Moor, three sightings in September (JBi). Essendon, one on Sept 30th (RPh). Hatfield, one on Sept 23rd (GJW). Mill End, Rickmansworth, two on July 23rd. North Mymms Park, one on Jan 8th (RPh). Prae Wood, present throughout the year with a maximum of six on Mar 19th and Oct 4th (mo). Rickmansworth, one on May 13th (SY). Rye Meads SF, singles seen on



seven dates during year. Shafford Farm, St Albans, six sightings in the second half of the year with a maximum count of five on Aug 6th (JPd). Sopwell Mill, one on May 21st (RF). Turnford Marsh GP, one on Dec 15th (KG). Location A, one pair bred, raising two young.

- Middx Enfield, one on Mar 5th (LBCO, AJO). Hampstead Heath, singles on Mar 22nd and Sept 23rd (WEO). King George VI Res, one on May 27th (PN). Staines Res, one on 3rd Apr (DJM) and Apr 30th (PN). Winchmore Hill, one on Mar 12th (KF).
- Kent Chipstead Lake, birds from Hogtrough Hill seen twice with three on June 4th (TRS). Hogtrough Hill, pair nested but reportedly washed out by heavy rain (PJO). Oxleas Wood, one on June 10th (JR).
- Surrey Banstead, one on Sept 23rd (SWG). Beddington SF, singles on six dates during the year (BBR). Bookham Common, one on May 18th (AP). Carshalton, one on July 6th (DEL). Chelsham, Nore Hill, singles on Sept 25th and 28th (BJT). Claygate Green, one on Dec 20th (JM). Croydon, one on Mar 28th (RSPBCG). Island Barn Res, one on Oct 1st (DMH). Kenley, one on Apr 29th (RSPBCG). Kew Gardens, one on July 20th (AB). Leatherhead, one on Apr 14th (MWN). Merstham, one on Apr 16th (SHR). Moat Hill, singles on Feb 13th and Oct 17th (PJO). Oxted Down, one on May 28th (BJT). Oxted, Honesland Wood, one on Oct 4th (KN). Oxted, Hurst Green, three on May 13th and June 13th, one on Sept 14th (KN). Shirley, singles on Mar 19th and Apr 8th (RSPBCG). Sutton, one on July 30th (DEL). Thames Ditton, one on Sept 4th (JH). Thorpe, one on May 7th (RJW). Titsey, one on May 22nd (BJT). Trevereaux, one on Feb 13th and on Oct 17th (PJO). Wandsworth, one on Oct 1st (RK). Warwick Wold, one on Jan 30th (SWG). Woldingham, one on Sept 23rd (BJT).
- In Lond Regent's Park, three on Sept 25th and one on Sept 29th (ARD, DJ). South Kensington, one on Sept 25th (TP).

The increase in sightings of this species continues. Two pairs nested, one of which was successful, although it is thought they may have bred at other sites as well. Recorded at 63 sites, a large increase on the previous record of 48 in 1999.

Buzzard sp

Buteo sp.

Middx Horsenden Hill, one on Oct 1st flew high S at 12.00.

0301 Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Essex King George V Res, one flew N at 13.15 on Sept 25th (AM). Sewardstone, one S at 10.27 on Sept 8th (AM). Stratford, one over R, Lee at 08:10 on Sept 13th (HV).

Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on May 7th (ABe et al). Paynes Marsh GP, one on Sept 26th flew south at 12.20 (ADW). Troy Mill GP, one NW at 13.55 on May 20th (AVM).

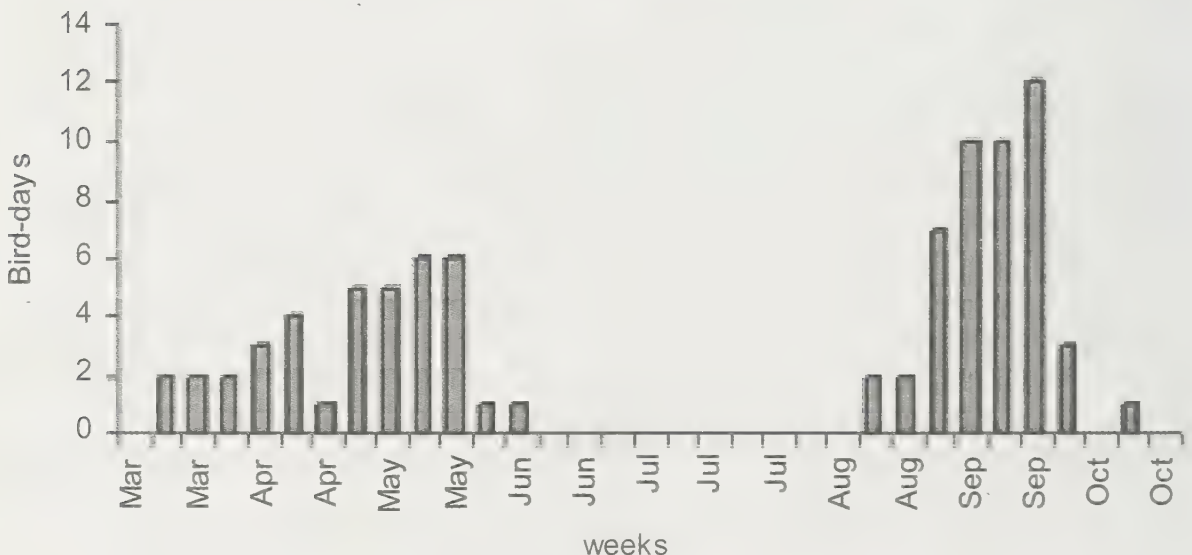
Middx Forty Hall, one flew N on Apr 13th (PCs). Wembley Stadium, one on Sept 25th (DPL).

Bucks Horton GP, one on Oct 3rd (CL).

Surrey Beddington SF, one N on Apr 16th and one on Apr 21st (BBR). Epsom Common, one S on Sept 4th (SG). Island Barn Res, one NW at 17.00 on Mar 24th (DMH), another SW on May 17th, also fished briefly at Field Common GP (SJS). Walton Res, one N at 07.16 then flew into Middlesex on Mar 26th (DMH).

A total of 14 Ospreys were seen this year, an increase on last year's 11. Even so, another 15 records could not be considered as no notes were supplied. The histogram above does not include any long staying individuals as the majority records relate to birds just flying through. The

Osprey bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



last two weeks of May is the peak for the spring and the last week of September for the autumn passage.

0304 Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus*

Status: common breeding resident.

	Pairs proved breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pairs present	Totals
Essex	11	-	59	70
Herts	7	2	1	10
Middx	10	-	4	14
Bucks	6	-	7	13
Kent	6	-	2	8
Surrey	5	5	4	14
In Lond	2	-	8	10
Totals	47	7	84	139

Essex Recorded from 56 sites, a large increase from 36 in 1999 was due to better recording.

Herts Recorded from 11 sites, total number of pairs was similar to 1999.

Middx Recorded from 16 sites, similar to 1999 but still vastly under-recorded.

Bucks Recorded from 17 sites; total pairs up from nine in 1999.

Kent Recorded from 23 sites; total pairs down on the 11 in 1999.

Surrey Recorded from 41 sites, up from 34 in 1999, although the total number of pairs is less than half of last year's.

In Lond Pairs reported from Bunhill Fields, Horseferry Road, Houses of Parliament, Lambeth Palace, Limehouse, London Wall, Paddington Green, Regent's Park, Tower of London and Victoria Park.

An increase in the total number of pairs from 121 last year was mainly due to additional recording, particularly in the Essex sector. However, the number of pairs proved breeding was down from 66.

0309 Merlin*Falco columbarius*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Essex Hornchurch CP, ♂ from Oct 16th to Nov 1st and ♀ on Dec 2nd (DMn,HV).
Rainham Marsh, ♀ on Nov 8th (KB).

Herts Rickmansworth, one on Sept 30th (AVM).

Kent Dartford Marsh, ♂ on Jan 1st (DWt).

Surrey Chelsham, Cheverells Farm, one chasing a Meadow Pipit on Dec 8th (BJT).

Six records this year was below average. Only one was seen in the first half of the year.

0310 Hobby***Falco subbuteo***

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

	Pairs proved breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pairs present	Totals
Essex	3	2	4	9
Herts	3	-	2	5
Middx	-	-	2	2
Bucks	-	-	3	3
Kent	2	-	-	2
Surrey	2	-	1	3
In Lond	1	-	-	1
Totals	11	2	12	25

- Essex Reported from 22 sites. The number of pairs proved breeding was down from seven in 1999.
- Herts Reported from 34 sites, the highest count was nine at Troy Mill GP in May.
- Middx Reported from 36 sites, up from 28 in 1999.
- Bucks Reported from six sites, the highest count was 13 together at Horton GP on May 25th.
- Kent Reported from 13 sites, a total of five young fledged from the two nests.
- Surrey Reported from 40 sites. One exceptionally early migrant on Mar 21st (JPPW).
- In Lond One pair bred in Inner London for the first time. Also reported from Harrow Road, W2, Paddington Green and Regent's Park.

A similar number of total pairs compared to last year although a large drop in those proved breeding from 20 to 14.

0320 Peregrine***Falco peregrinus***

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/winter visitor.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Oct 6th. King George V Res, singles on Nov 4th and Dec 13th. Walthamstow Res, one on Feb 12th. Wm Girling Res, one on Dec 2nd.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 5th. East India Dock Basin, singles on Jan 17th, May 15th and June 2nd. Middx Filter Beds, singles on Nov 26th and Dec 23rd. Staines Res, one from Jan 1st to Mar 9th with a pair displaying on Feb 9th and one on Aug 15th. Wraysbury Res, 1-2 from July 23rd to Nov 19th.
- Bucks Horton GP, singles on May 25th and Aug 6th. Queen Mother Res, ♀ regularly seen from May 13th to the end of the year with a second bird on Nov 25th. Wraysbury GP, singles on May 6th and July 29th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on May 12th and Nov 26th. Site A, one pair bred, raised three young, two of which fledged. Swanscombe Marsh, singles on Apr 2nd and Aug 26th.

- Surrey Barnes WWT, singles on 15 dates and two on Apr 26th. Beddington SF, singles on eight dates. Hersham GP, one on Jan 28th. Island Barn Res, one on Jan 5th. Morden Hall Park, one on Dec 24th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Mar 20th. R. Thames, Putney, one on Jan 29th. South Norwood Lake, one on Dec 28th.
- In Lond Capital Wharf, one on Oct 8th. Marylebone, singles on Mar 27th and June 1st. Paddington Green, singles on five dates. Primrose Hill, one on Jan 13th. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 2nd and 13th, a pair locking talons on Feb 17th. R. Thames, at least two birds seen throughout the year but did not breed, recorded from Bankside PS, Battersea PS, Houses of Parliament, London Bridge, Parliament Square, St Thomas's Hospital and Waterloo Station.

The sole breeding pair in London was successful this year, unlike in 1999. The presence of several birds around the Thames in Inner London throughout the year bodes well for a potential colonisation.

0358 Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Status: breeding resident, declining.

- Essex Fisher's Green, one on May 8th. Hainault Forest, at least two pairs. Holyfield Hall Farm, two on May 5th. Sewardstone, one on Mar 3rd and two on Mar 19th. Theydon Mont, three on Mar 5th.
- Herts Amwell GP, five on Jan 9th and one on Apr 30th. Coopers Green Lane, 22 on Jan 20th and 24 on Oct 4th. Coursers Lane Fields, 63 on Jan 1st. Tyttenhanger GP, 30 on Jan 12th. Waterdale, one on Apr 12th.
- Middx Parkside Farm, two during March and April and five on Oct 29th. Vicarage Farm, up to five between January and May, and six in September.
- Bucks Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath, one pair present.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 12th.
- Surrey Betchworth, two on May 8th. Hust Green, three on Oct 4th. Limpsfield Chart, present.

This species is declining at an ever increasing rate, it was present at just seven sites in the breeding season. Some of the high counts in Hertfordshire were released birds for shooting.

0367 Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Status: breeding resident, declining.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 16 pairs bred (13 in 1999). Beckton SF, one pair bred. Copped Hall, two pairs during breeding season. Hornchurch CP, one pair in April/May. Rainham Marsh, at least six pairs. Sewardstone, three on Feb 6th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, three pairs (4 in 1999). Blackbirds SF, two pairs in breeding season. Coursers Lane Fields, one on Nov 20th. Hatfield Aerodrome, one pair. Hatfield Garden Village, one pair in breeding season, 10 in September. Panshanger Park, four in May. Sleapshyde

Farm, five in Jan 6th. Smallford GP, five on Jan 9th. Tyttenhanger GP, a pair in May.

Middx Bushy Park, one on Feb 3rd.

Our native partridge is making a come back after a long period of decline and is now commoner than the previous species. At least 34 pairs were located in the breeding season, up from 21 in 1999. The Middlesex bird was considered to a released bird.

0394 Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding records (number of broods/pairs/territorial males in brackets) and other locations given below.

Essex Fishers Green (2). Hainault Forest (10). Rainham Marsh (50). Also reported from Hall Marsh and Holyfield Hall Farm.

Herts Hilfield Park Res (1). Rye Meads SF (3). Also reported from Maple Lodge NR.

Middx No breeding records although present at Hampton Court Park and Hounslow Heath all year with six ♂ at the former site on Mar 12th. Also reported from Bushy Park, King George VI Res, Staines Moor, Stanwell Moor and Trent Park where there were 12 on Oct 24th.

Bucks Hollybush Lane (1). Kingcup Farm (1). Roberts Farm (1). Rowley Farm, Black Park (2). Tilehouse Lane (1). Also reported from Black Park, Gossams Wood, Long Coppice, Mansfield Farm, Nockhill Wood, Oldhouse Wood, Tilehouse South Lake and Withy Bridge.

Kent Crayford (1). Thamesmead (1). Also reported from Dartford Marsh, Hogtrough Hill, Ruxley GP, Sevenoaks NR and Swanscombe Marsh.

Surrey Beddington SF (1). Chertsey Meads (1). Park Farm, Chessington (5). Also reported from Barwell Court Farm, Croydon, Epsom Common, Headley Heath, Hersham GP, Kew Gardens, Limpsfield Chart, Molesey Heath, Queen Elizabeth II Res and Walton Res.

0407 Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

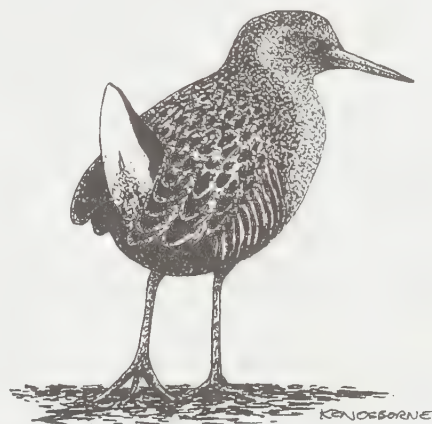
Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; rare breeder.

The numbers in both winter periods are shown in the table below and listed separately by county (numbers in brackets represent the highest counts in the periods January to April and September to December) along with breeding records.

	<i>Jan – Apr</i>	<i>Sept – Dec</i>
Essex	5	9
Herts	37	27
Middx	30	15
Bucks	5	7
Kent	10	13
Surrey	28	26
Totals	115	97

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (2:0). Cornmill Meadows (1:0). Hornchurch CP (0:5), pair bred. Netherhall GP (0:4). Rainham Marsh, three plus territories in summer. Walthamstow Res (2:0).
- Herts Amwell GP (9:6) one pair bred. Bowyer's GP (0:2). Broxbourne GP (1:0). Cheshunt GP (6:6). Chess Valley (2:1). Hilfield Park Res (4:1), possible young bird heard calling on June 25th. Maple Lodge NR (2:0). Panshanger Park (0:1). Rye House Marsh (1:0). Rye Meads SF (4:9), one pair bred. Scotsbridge Mill (2:0). Stanborough Reedmarsh (3:0). Stocker's Lake (3:4)
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (0:2). Brent Res (22:7). Broadwater Lake (0:2). Bushy Park (3:1). Hounslow Heath (1:0). Moorhall GP (0:2). Ruislip Lido, one on June 3rd. Springwell Lake (1:0). Springwell Reedbed (1:0). Stanwell Moor (1:0). Stoke Newington Res (0:1). Trent Park (1:0).
- Bucks Denham, R. Colne (2:0). Horton GP (1:7). Wraysbury GP (2:0), also two on May 7th.
- Kent Barnes Cray (1:0). Chipstead Lake (0:1). Danson Park (0:1). Darent Valley Walk (1:0). Dartford Marsh (0:1). Foots Cray Meadows (2:1). Hoblingwell Wood (1:0). Ruxley GP (3:3). Sevenoaks NR (2:1). Swanscombe Marsh (0:5).
- Surrey Barnes WWT (8:7), one on June 12th. Beddington SF (2:2). Esher Common (1:0). Hersham SF (1:0). Hust Green (2:0) Lonsdale Road Res (0:2). Molesey Heath (1:0). Morden Hall Park (5:4). Pen Ponds (0:1). R. Ember (1:0). R. Mole, Hersham (1:1). R. Mole, West Molesey (1:2). South Norwood CP (1:1). Walton Res (5:5).

There were only four pairs reported during the breeding season, compared to eight last year although this is a notoriously difficult species to prove breeding. A couple of other sites had reports of birds in June which is indicative of breeding. The high count of 22 birds at Brent Res on Jan 16th was made with the use of a tape lure and was more than double the number of birds believed to be present.



0424 Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Status: very common breeding resident.

Details of site maximum counts (30+), reported breeding records (5+) and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Buckhurst Hill GP, six broods. Connaught Water, 32 on Jan 16th. Cornmill Meadows, 35 on Mar 18th. Fishers Green, 127 on Jan 1st. Hall Marsh, 43 on Nov 26th. Hollow Pond, 31 on Jan 15th, six broods. Hornchurch/Berwick Ponds, ten broods. Parsloes Park, five broods. Rainham Marsh, 91 on Dec 17th, ten broods. South Park, Ilford, six broods. Valentines Park, ten broods. Walthamstow Res, 183 on Jan 21st, 16 broods. Wanstead Park, seven broods.

- Essex Barking Park, 24 broods. Belhus Woods CP, 13 broods. Connaught Water, 37 broods. Dagenham Chase, 12 broods. Fairlop, 10 broods. Holyfield Lake, 34 broods. Hornchurch/Berwick Ponds, 15 broods. Mayesbrook Park, 12 broods. Rainham Marsh, 60+ pairs. Sewardstone, 11 broods. South Park, Ilford, 15 broods. Stubber OPC, 11 broods. Turnford Marsh GP, 11+ pairs. Valentines Park, 22 broods. Wanstead Park, 16 broods.
- Herts Aldenham Res, 17 nests. Hilfield Park Res, 18 broods. Rye Meads SF, 62 pairs. Stocker's Lake, 22 nests. Verulamium Lake, 11 nests.
- Middx Brent Res, one pair nest building on Dec 23rd. Finsbury Park, ten pairs.
- Bucks East Iver Lakes, 20+ nests.
- Kent Littlebrook Lake, ten plus pairs.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, 25 broods. Beddington SF, 26 territories (20 in 1999). R. Wandle, Carshalton to Morden Hall Park, 22 territories. Waddon Ponds, 20 pairs.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, four nests. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 111 on Jan 19th, six pairs. Kennington, one pair. Little Venice, one pair. Regent's Canal, Kings Cross, 47 on Feb 1st. Regent's Canal, St John's Wood, one pair. St James's Park, 101 on Feb 2nd. Surrey Docks, 49 on Feb 1st. Victoria Park, 85 on Nov 1st, 15 pairs.

0450 Oystercatcher***Haematopus ostralegus***

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the breeding season pairs were reported at Rainham Marsh (four pairs) and Thames Barrier (one pair bred). The total of only one confirmed breeding pair, with four other reported territories, represents a reduction on last year's breeding totals. Also numbers outside the breeding season along the Lower Thames were reduced, for both volume and different sites.

Peak counts at the main locations were Dartford Marsh (five on Mar 21st) and Swanscombe Marsh (ten on Apr 2nd).

Records away from the Thames are shown below by county. Dates refer to single birds unless shown in brackets with a higher number. Again, records from these areas also showed a decline in the number of reports during the year compared to last year.

- Essex Fishers Green, July 27th. King George V Res, May 29th, July 24th and Oct 1st. Walthamstow Res, May 29th and Oct 22nd. Wm. Girling Res, July 25th, Aug 4th and 11th.
- Herts Amwell GP, May 12th, 29th; and July 22nd. Hilfield Park Res, May 16th and Aug 7th. Pynesfield GP on Aug 2nd. Rye Meads SF, July 23rd.
- Middx Brent Res on Dec 26th. East India Dock on July 30th. Heathrow, July 31st. Horsendon Hill, Sept 10th. King George VI Res, Aug 21st and Dec 23rd. Palmers Green, Aug 22nd. Staines Res, Apr 25th, July 16th, July 22nd (2),

Aug 1st and Dec 31st. Wraysbury Res, July 23rd, 24th, 25th (3), Aug 5th, 7th, 11th; and Sept 17th.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, May 23rd; July 7th (2), 18th, 25th (3), 26th, 30th; Aug 7th, 12th, 19th (2) and Dec 28th. Wraysbury GP, July 24th (7).

Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on July 22nd.

Surrey Barnes WWT, May 20th, July 9th (2), 25th and Aug 4th (5). Beddington SF, May 1st; July 22nd (3), 23rd, and Aug 8th. Hersham GP, Apr 23rd. Island Barn Res, Apr 23rd, May 31st and July 31st (3). Queen Elizabeth II Res, July 22nd, Aug 3rd, 6th (2), Sept 17th, and Dec 23rd. Walton Res, Mar 5th, Apr 25th, July 25th, Aug 5th, 7th (4), 11th and 18th.



0456 Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

Status: a scarce visitor in all months of the year, has bred once.

Essex Rainham Marsh, three on Nov 8th (KB).

Middx Staines Moor, one on Oct 22nd (PN). Staines Res, nine on Apr 25th (PN,DJM).

Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Mar 5th, one on Mar 26th and Apr 13th; two on Aug 23rd and three on Nov 8th (DM,AW,BEW *et al*). Sevenoaks WR, one on Dec 17th (CS,CV).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 11th (BBR).

This year there was a fairly even split of records between spring (five) and autumn (six), with the largest party being nine on Apr 25th at Staines Res.

0459 Stone Curlew

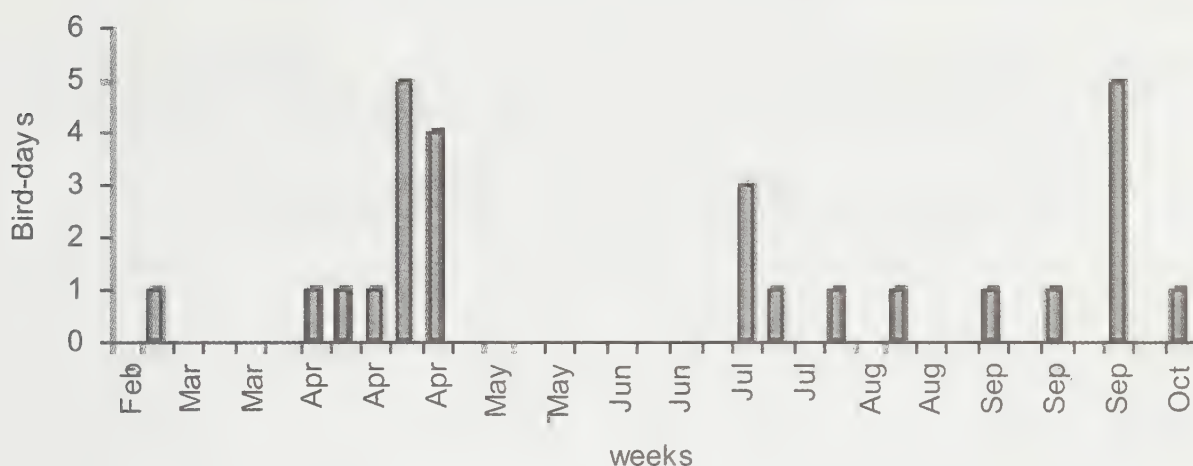
Burhinus oediconemus

Status: a scarce passage migrant.

Essex Sewardstone, one on Feb 28th (SC,BD,AM).

Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Apr 14th (BEW *et al*).

Stone-Curlew bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



The Essex record is an early record, but this species normally appears at its breeding grounds during the first week of March. During the last ten years there have only been six records. 64% of all records since 1960 fall in the last week of April and the first week of May. If you want to find this species in London that is the time to go looking for them.

0469 Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first birds of the year was a single at Stocker's Farm on a typical date of Mar 12th, with several other records in the following days. Again spring records were widely recorded, though numbers again were not impressive. Barnes WWT again held the largest concentrations this year with ten on 4th April.

Breeding records are shown in the table below:

	Sites	Pairs attempted breeding	Other pairs present	Total pairs
Essex	6	4	11	15
Herts	6	6	4	10
Middx	5	4	5	9
Bucks	0	0	0	0
Kent	2	2	0	2
Surrey	4	9	1	10
Total	23	25	21	46

This year shows a return to the more normal figures, with a notable increase from last years 27 pairs, matching the 40 odd pairs in 1998. Observers are still asked to report all breeding or territorial pairs, in order that an accurate record can be maintained of this species status within the London area.

The autumn passage was again generally notable by its absence, with the only large concentrations being 15 at Amwell GP on June 27th and 21

at Cornmill Meadows on July 1st. The last bird of the year was on 27th Sept at Rainham Marsh.

0470 Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Status: localised breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor

For a direct comparison between this species and Little Ringed Plovers above, breeding records are shown in the table below:

	Sites	Pairs attempted breeding	Other pairs present	Total pairs
Essex	4	9	0	9
Herts	4	6	0	6
Middx	5	3	5	8
Bucks	0	0	0	0
Kent	1	1	0	1
Surrey	2	0	2	2
Total	16	19	7	26

The number of sites this species was present at during this breeding season increased, despite the fact none were reported from the Bucks sector this year. With a slight increase overall in the total number of pairs to 26 from last years 24.

Counts along the Lower Thames during winter were much reduced. Whether this is a genuine decline or through under recording is unclear, but notable counts include: Dartford Marsh, 45 on Aug 19th, 92 on Aug 23rd, 46 on Aug 26th and 20 on Dec 2nd; Swanscombe Marsh, 14 on Mar 12th, 60 on Dec 3rd and 15 on Dec 15th.

Highest counts elsewhere include: Staines Res, 17 on Feb 17th, 34 on Feb 27th, and 12 on Mar 5th; Wraysbury Res, 14 on Aug 19th and 12 on Aug 26th.

0485 Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the Area, scarce winter and passage migrant elsewhere.

The usual large winter flocks could be found in both winter periods in the more rural areas of Essex and Herts, with flocks in excess of 1,000 birds being seen in the first winter period during January and February and in the second winter period during November and December. Spring and autumn passage was generally poor with the last spring bird being reported on April 15th when one was seen at Dartford Marsh. The first passage bird in the autumn was a single on July 27th at Radlett, with the next not until Sept 10th when a single was seen at Hilfield Park Res.

In the following summary, records for Essex and Herts are given in tabular form, showing sites that recorded flocks of more than 250 birds, with all other records given for other counties.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Dagenham Chase	2500	1200	-	281	920	583
	Sewardstone	3000	1200	2500	-	-	1000
Herts	Beech Farm GP	50	1000	500	-	11	-
	Chiswell Green	-	-	250	-	-	-
	Cooper Green Lane	600	800	-	-	-	-
	Coursers Lane Fields	-	-	-	-	550	850
	Frogmore GP	-	-	-	-	300	-
	Great Amwell	278	-	-	180	475	220
	Hatfield Aerodrome	-	1000	-	-	-	-
	Radlett	-	-	1800	85	-	-
	Shenleybury	-	-	-	300	-	-
	Smallford	400	-	-	-	-	-
	Stanborough Lake	-	-	-	-	400	-
	Tyttenhanger GP	-	-	-	-	450	-
	Woodoaks Farm	1296	90	60	-	333	185
	Wormley	-	-	-	-	-	600

Middx Brent Res, one on Dec 25th. Staines Res, two on Feb 20th and one on Nov 12th.

Bucks Withybridge, 41 on Jan 17th, 33 on Nov 17th and 26 on Nov 29th.

Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Apr 4th, two on Dec 9th and four on Dec 29th.

Surrey Barnes WWT, ten on Dec 22nd. Beddington SF, one on Oct 21st, seven on Oct 22nd, one on Nov 24th; and in Dec, three on 23rd, four on 24th, 31 on 25th, three on 28th, and five on 30th. Charshalton, one on Dec 31st. Hersham GP, five on Dec 23rd. Molesey Heath, one on Dec 29th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Dec 14th. West Ewell, one on Sept 26th.

0486 Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor

Essex Cornmill Meads, one on Mar 19th and 20th (IK,SC). Rainham Marsh, one on Mar 26th and Dec 7th (AJAD,KB). Sewardstone one on Mar 19th (HBk). Wm Girling Res, one on May 6th (PJV).

Herts Amwell GP, one on May 1st (BR,GJW).

Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 29th, May 4th and Dec 23rd (ASMS,AGV,DWn). Staines Moor, one on Apr 21st (PN). Staines Res, one on Apr 11th (KLP), Apr 28th (DJM) and May 4th and 5th (CDRH,DHy,KLP,DJM).

Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 1st (DM,PR), three on May 4th (JPR,BEW), one on Oct 21st and Dec 10th; and two on Dec 30th (DM). Sevenoaks WR, two on Mar 20th (SRPy,CS). Swanscombe Marsh, one on Dec 28th (AL)

Surrey Barnes WWT, one from May 1st to 4th (RJA,EB,JPPW). Beddington SF, two on May 4th and one on 21st (BBR). Island Barn Res, one on Dec 21st (AQ). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on May 3rd, 5th and 7th; and Sept 23rd (DMH). Richmond Park, one on May 13th (BAM). Walton Res, one on May 5th and 6th (DMH,AQ).

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Feb 17th (ARD,DJ).

A further reduction in records this year compared to previous years, with no notable winter records from the Lower Thames.

0493 Lapwing***Vanellus vanellus***

Status: widespread, but decreasing breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

This year again the number of pairs reported breeding or holding territory fell to 108, a further reduction from the previous year's 122 and the 140 in 1998. This may be partly due to a reduction in the reporting of territorial pairs, but it is also a clear indication that this species is having difficulty maintaining its breeding within the London area. There are some sites that hold a large number of pairs, but this species presence is likely to become more reliant on the nature reserves being developed within the London area. Large breeding concentrations this year were 16 territories at Beddington SF and Rainham Marsh, 8-9 territories at Hornchurch CP, and eight territories at Barnes WWT, but breeding success was mixed with some sites seeing few young, but at Beddington SF eight pairs raised young. The future success of this species perhaps lies with the provision of suitable habitat, especially at the newly created nature reserves. Outside the breeding season large winter concentrations could be found at the usual sites, but the numbers reported were generally lower than the previous year.

In the following summary, the largest counts in excess of 250 in each county are given (with the month of occurrence in brackets), together with all Inner London records.

- Essex Dagenham Chase 1,400 (Feb). Rainham Marsh 5,000 (Jan). Sewardstone 1,000 (Jan). A leucistic bird was at Sewardstone on Jan 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP 450 (Jan). Great Amwell 620 (Jan). Oylers Farm 350 (Nov). Shenleybury 700 (Nov). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross 1,000 (Jan). A leucistic bird was at Amwell GP on Feb 20th.
- Middx Kempton Park Res 600 (Feb).
- Bucks Withy Bridge 1,500 (Nov). Woodlands Park GP 800 (Dec).
- Kent Chevening 1,200 (Jan). Dartford Marsh 460 (Dec). Sevenoaks NR 400 (Nov).
- Surrey Hersham GP 1,120 (Nov). Holmethorpe GP 2,500 (Jan). Queen Elizabeth Res 980 (Jan).
- In Lon Regents Park, one on July 4th and 28 flew SW on Dec 28th (ARD, DJ).

0496 Knot***Calidris canutus***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

- Middx King George VI Res, three on May 4th (MMe). Perry Oaks SF, one on May 7th (CL). Staines Res, two on May 4th, additional to the birds on King George VI Res (CL,MMe,PN,KLP,DJM). Wraysbury Res, one on Sep 21st (PN,DJM).
- Kent Crossness, one on July 23rd (DTM). Dartford Marsh, two on May 4th (JPR,BEW) and one on Oct 21st (DM).

Surrey Beddington SF, two flew E on May 4th, one on July 22nd and two on Oct 21st and 22nd (BBR,DAC). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Mar 20th and 21st, had moved from Walton Res, and one on May 5th (DMH,SJS). Walton Res, one on Mar 19th (DMH,SJS).

A nice influx of summer-plumaged birds in early May (especially on 4th and mostly on south-western reservoirs) boosted the total of records for an otherwise unexceptional year. These May birds appeared with many Bar-tailed and a few Black-tailed Godwits, in a blaze of red waders.

0497 Sanderling

Calidris alba

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, five on May 7th (AJAD,PF,HV), and one on May 30th (AJAD). King George V Res, eight on Apr 30th (SC).

Middx King George VI Res, singles on Apr 22nd (PN), May 6th (DJM), May 11th and 16th (CL,PN), two on Aug 2nd, one on Aug 3rd (DJM), one on Aug 15th (MMe), and two on Sept 26th (CL). Ponders End Lake, four on May 26th (ADW). Staines Res, singles on Apr 25th, 30th and May 1st (KLP,PN,DJM), and two on May 5th (KLP). Wraysbury Res, one on July 25th (CL), two on July 31st (CL,CDRH), two on 3rd, singles on Aug 4th and 7th (CL), one from Aug 19th to 26th (DJM,CL,PN,KLP), and one on Sept 3rd (AVM,PN).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on May 7th, 20th and 23rd, and three on May 24th and 25th (JAS).

Surrey Beddington SF, in May two on 10th, one on 21st, two on 23rd and one on 27th (BBR). QE II Res, one on May 3rd (mo) and two on May 6th (SJS), two on July 25th (DMH), and one on Aug 21st (mo). Walton Res, one on May 17th (DMH).

As usual a quite strong spring passage dominated records, when birds often arrived in flocks, although this year the largest party was of only eight birds together. Autumn records tend to be fewer by comparison, with most records of just one or two, and this year again fitted this pattern.



0501 Little Stint***Calidris minutus***

Status: passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

- Essex King George V Res, two briefly on Oct 22nd, flew off S (HBk,SC,AM).
 Middx Wraysbury Res, an adult on Aug 13th, two juveniles on Sept 17th (PN,DJM) and one on Sept 20th (CL).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 17th (JAS).
 Kent Crossness, singles on May 14th (AJAD) and one on July 17th (DTM).
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Sept 20th, two on Sept 23rd, two on Sept 23rd and 24th, and one on Nov 26th, all juveniles (BBR). Hershams GP, two on Sept 22nd (SJS). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Sept 24th (SJS), and from Oct 1st to 3rd (DMH,SJS). Walton Res, one on Sept 22nd (DMH).

Rather few sightings, with only a minor influx between Sept 17th and 24th to boost totals somewhat. No count exceeded two birds, and about 18 birds were seen in total, at eight sites.

0502 Temminck's Stint***Calidris temminckii***

Status: rare but annual passage migrant.

- Essex Amwell GP, one on May 5th to 6th (GJW *et al*). Rye Meads SF, one on May 6th (RMRG).

Two more records on typical spring dates of this tiny and elusive wader. The closeness of the two records both in terms of time and locality suggests the possibility that they may refer to just one individual.

0507 Pectoral Sandpiper***Calidris melanotos***

Status: rare vagrant.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, a juvenile from Sept 2nd to 16th (PF *et al*).

Most recent years have produced at least one record of this species somewhere in the London Area. The most regular of the Nearctic waders to be seen in Western Europe. Its two-week stay is a little longer than most previous birds, but not exceptional for an autumn bird.

0509 Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris ferruginea***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, most regular in autumn.

- Middx Kempton NR, one on Aug 3rd (DJM) a juvenile from Sept 1st to 10th (KLP *et al*). Wraysbury Res two on Aug 26th (DJM)
 Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile from Sept 2nd to 4th was joined by a second bird from 5th to 10th, then three from Sept 6th to 9th and two on Sept 10th (BBR).

These six individual birds, all on very similar dates in the autumn, represent one of the poorest years ever for this species in the London Area.

0512 Dunlin***Calidris alpina***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Records from the Lower Thames during the year were remarkably few. Only Dartford Marsh produced birds on a regular basis, and even then, only in small numbers. This compares with previous years when thousands used to occur at certain sites along the river. In a very poor year the count at Swanscombe Marsh on Dec 23rd is exceptional. The following table summarises the position, giving the peak monthly counts during the autumn and winter months at four localities.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking	-	-	-	-	-	-	161	-
	Rainham Marsh	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kent	Dartford Marsh	20	-	9	10	1	12	13	23
	Swanscombe Marsh	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	2,500

There is also a regular wintering flock which is normally found somewhere in the Walton and Staines groups of reservoirs, and nearby wetland areas, and this area also normally produces the highest counts of migrants. Much depends on the suitability of available habitat, which of course varies greatly from one year to the next, and also there can be a great deal of movement between sites, especially in the winter. This is illustrated by the following table which gives monthly maxima for those places that attracted this species on a regular basis during the year.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	KG V Res	-	-	-	2	1	7	-	1	1	-	-
	Wm Girling Res	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	2	1	-	-
Herts	Amwell GP	-	-	1	1	3	2	1	1	-	-	-
	Hilfield Pk Res	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	5	1	-	-
Middx	KG VI Res	-	-	-	-	11	6	-	-	-	-	1
	Staines Res	1	-	3	10	4	2	4	-	-	-	-
Surrey	Wraysbury Res	-	-	-	-	-	2	41	13	-	-	-
	Barnes WWT	-	1	1	1	5	1	4	-	1	1	-
	Beddington SF	-	-	7	1	6	3	3	4	1	-	1
	Hersham SF	68	72	67	2	4	-	-	-	1	23	43
	Is. Barn Res	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	15
	QE II Res	74	46	55	2	3	1	4	7	1	6	39
	Walton Res	23	1	1	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	16

The main wintering flocks at both ends of the year were found in the Walton area. Numbers passing through in both spring and autumn were relatively low, with the exception of Wraysbury Res where lowering of the water level produced wide areas of mud and some good sized flocks in August.

- 0517 Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
 Status: regular passage migrant, now rare winter visitor.
- Essex Berwick Ponds, one on Oct 11th. Cornmill Meads, one on Mar 30th and 31st. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Aug 30th. Rainham Marsh, three on July 26th, singles on July 31st and Aug 10th, three on Aug 21st, five on Sept 3rd and three on 9th. Sewardstone, one from Mar 26th to 29th. South Hornchurch, one on Aug 17th. Wm Girling Res, one on Aug 4th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one from Sept 4th to 16th, and one on Dec 31st. Hilfield Park Res, 14 flew over on Sept 24th. Radlett area, one on May 5th. Rye Meads SF, two flew over on Sept 3rd.
- Middx Kempton NR, one from Sept 9th to 27th. King George VI Res, one on Mar 12th and three on Mar 19th. (also at Staines Moor and Stanwell Moor). Mead Farm, Shepperton, one on Jan 12th. Ruislip Lido, one on Aug 28th and 29th. Staines Moor, one on Mar 12th, three from Mar 17th to 20th, and one on May 3rd. Staines Res, 11 south on Aug 31st. Stanwell Moor, three on Mar 25th. Wraysbury Res, singles from July 23rd to Aug 3rd, on Aug 21st, Sept 2nd, 4th and 5th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Aug 28th and two on Sept 4th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, one on Aug 2nd, three on Sept 2nd and one on Sept 25th. Beddington SF, one on July 16th, and present on many dates between Aug 22nd and Sept 23rd with a maximum of six on Sept 19th and 20th. Hersham GP, one or two on many dates between Jan 12th and Mar 19th, singles on Apr 16th and from Apr 29th to May 3rd, two on May 4th and 5th and one from Sept 28th to Oct 1st. Birds probably from Hersham GP were two at Queen Elizabeth II Res on Jan 26th, and one at Walton Res on May 5th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, three flew S on Sept 22nd and two on Sept 25th (ARD, DJ).

This species' fortunes still remain at rather a low ebb in the London area. It has become almost extinct as a winter visitor, and otherwise is only seen in the passage months, when numbers are quite variable from one year to the next, but the trend is downwards. Some of the high counts of previous years seems to be a thing of the past, for the time being at least. This year two birds were found in the Walton/Shepperton area during the first three months, mostly at Hersham GP, but significantly there were no winter records anywhere at the end of the year, apart from one in December in Hertfordshire on one date only, which may have been associated with cold weather.

Spring saw a small influx of up to three birds together at various sites in west London from Mar 12th to 25th followed by a couple in Essex at the end of that month, two April records in Surrey, and then four more birds between May 3rd and 5th. Far more widespread in the autumn, with records from July 16th to Oct 11th. The only places recording more than three birds together were five at Rainham Marsh, six at Beddington SF, 11 birds south over Staines Res and 14 birds flying over Hilfield Park Res.

0518 Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, singles on Mar 19th and 31st. Dagenham Chase, singles from Apr 1st to 3rd, and on Oct 20th. Dagenham Corridor, one on Mar 25th. Fairlop Lakes CP, one on Apr 22nd. Hall Marsh, one on Mar 24th. Sewardstone, one on Feb 24th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on three dates in January, three in February, and on Dec 27th. Rye Meads SF, up to two present from Jan 1st until Apr 22nd, and one or two from Oct 8th until the end of the year, but three on Dec 30th.
- Middx Middlesex Filter Beds, one on Dec 31st. Minet site, Hayes, one on Jan 25th. Perry Oaks SF, two on Jan 22nd. Shepperton, three in flooded field on Feb 9th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 5th.
- Bucks Horton GP, four on Feb 28th, one on Mar 9th, and 11 on Oct 29th. Wraysbury GP, one on Dec 28th.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, three on Jan 30th, four on Mar 4th, six on Mar 12th, five on Apr 2nd, three on Oct 29th, nine on Nov 26th and 14 on Dec 3rd.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, singles on Jan 9th, 24th and Dec 2nd, two on Nov 14th. Beddington SF, up to two in January, four in February and one through March to Apr 3rd, one from Oct 16th, two in November, and one on Dec 6th. Hershams GP, two in January. Hogsmill SF, three on Dec 30th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Jan 2nd. Horton CP, one on Dec 7th and 31st. Morden Hall Park, singles on Jan 23rd and Dec 17th to 31st.

Reported from 21 localities during the first four months of the year until Apr 22nd, and from 11 between Oct 8th and the end of the year. Numbers were relatively low at the beginning of the year, with the highest count of five at Swanscombe Marsh (Kent) on Apr 2nd, but at the end of the year some notable gatherings included 11 at Horton GP (Bucks) on Oct 29th, and a high count of 14 at Swanscombe Marsh on Dec 3rd. Both of these two sites produced large numbers in 1999.

0519 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce breeder.

Records shown include the largest flocks in each county outside the breeding season, together with all records in May and June which might be suggestive of breeding. A drumming male was present at Rye Meads SF again in the summer, and a pair at Rainham Marsh on June 1st. Four other sites still held birds in early May, which may have been late departing winter visitors. The majority of winter flocks did not reach 50, although there was a count of over three times that figure in Kent in November

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, 32 on Dec 29th. Dagenham Chase, 24 on Mar 12th. Rainham Marsh, a pair on June 1st, and 21 on Sept 27th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 100 on Oct 28th. Beech Farm GP, 35 on Dec 23rd. Broxbourne GP, one on May 1st. Coopers Green GP, 24 on Feb 13th. Rye

Meads SF, a pair in May and June included a drumming ♂. and 61 on Nov 18th. Shafford Farm, near St Albans, 30 on Dec 30th. Tyttenhanger GP, 29 on Dec 3rd.

Middx Hatton Cross, 16 on Mar 10th. Kempton NR, 27 on Oct 16th. Minet site, Hayes, 20 on Jan 25th. Shepperton, 22 on flooded field on Feb 9th. Staines Moor, 40 on Apr 6th, and one on May 3rd. Stanwell Moor, 15 on Oct 14th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 14 on Jan 15th was the highest count in this sector.

Kent Dartford Marsh, 40 on Jan 1st, and one calling over the marsh on the evening of May 5th. Sevenoaks WR, 33 on Oct 15th. Swanscombe Marsh, counts of 118 on Oct 2nd and 176 on Nov 26th.

Surrey Barnes WWT, 91 on Sept 24th. Beddington SF, 35 on Oct 21st. Hersham GP, 91 on Feb 3rd, and one on May 5th. Holmethorpe SP, 25 on Jan 2nd. Thorpe Water Park, 31 on Jan 9th.

0529 Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

All breeding season and Inner London records are given below.

Essex Epping Forest, up to six on Apr 6th and five roding on June 26th, both at Jack's Hill. Near Wake Valley Ponds, one roding on June 28th.

Surrey Ashtead Common, two roding on July 7th. Banstead Heath, two roding on May 1st. Epsom Common, one roding on June 20th, the first here for four years. Headley Heath, two roding on June 15th. Limpsfield Chart, one roding from April to June.

In Lond Guy's Hospital, one on Nov 4th, flew in to a window and was killed (AJO,LBCO). Kensington Palace, one flew over on Mar 21st (RFS). Regent's Park, one flew NW on Nov 6th (ARD, DJ).

Outside the breeding season a total of about 48 birds were seen (including those in Inner London listed above). No sighting was of more than two birds together, and three birds were picked up dead. Passage birds were noted in late March and late autumn (late October and November) when there is a long history of birds turning up in some strange places, as is shown again this year in Inner London. The majority of the December records this year were very late in the month, when there was snow lying on the ground, which always tends to lead to an increase in the number of sightings by observers.

0532 Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable but increasing numbers.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Jan 15th (AJAD) and two on July 11th and 14th (KB). Cornmill Meads, one on Mar 31st (AJG *et al*). Fishers Green, one on May 27th (IK) and four on July 4th (MCn *et al*). Hornchurch CP, one on June 29th and 30th (KB,DH,LH). Rainham Marsh, one on June

- 30th, two on July 26th, one on 31st, two on Aug 4th (KB), and one on Sept 3rd (DTM). South Hornchurch, one on Sept 2nd (KB).
- Herts Radlett area, five on July 7th (GJW). Rye Meads SF, two on July 6th (RMRG). Stocker's Farm, two on July 4th (SY). Tyttenhanger GP, one on Aug 20th (RFR).
- Middx Kempton NR, two on May 3rd (AVM,PN), one on Aug 3rd (APG,DJM) and two on Sept 9th (KLP). Staines Moor, singles on Apr 9th and 10th (PN *et al*), and from Apr 30th to May 2nd (MMe *et al*). Staines Res, one on May 1st (PN) and two on May 4th (DJM). Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 9th (DJM) Aug 2nd (MMe).
- Kent Crossness, seven on Mar 5th (AJAD). Dartford, two or more heard calling at night on June 21st (PR). Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 21st (SJD) and three on Aug 4th (DM). Sevenoaks WR, one on July 11th (DDe).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, one on Sept 9th (ME, JPW). Beddington SF, three on Mar 18th, two on Apr 1st, three on July 4th, one on July 10th, nine on July 11th, two on Aug 28th and one on Dec 24th (BBR). Hersham GP, one on Apr 22nd (DMH). Queen Elizabeth II Res, two flew SE on Aug 7th and another did the same on Aug 8th (DMH). Walton Res, eight on May 2nd (DMH).

Following the reports of birds wintering along both shores of the Inner Thames over the previous two winters in quite considerable numbers, the lack of hardly any such reports at either the beginning or end of 2000 is most disappointing. Numbers seen overall were down compared with the increases noted in recent years, with no really large flocks seen in spring or autumn, although there seems to have been a small influx in the first few days of May, especially in west London.

0534 Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on May 7th (AJAD). King George V Res, three on Apr 29th (AC *et al*). Rainham Marsh, three on Apr 11th (RK). Sewardstone, one on Apr 30th, six on May 2nd, three on May 3rd, a further party of seven on May 4th, and two on May 5th (mo).
- Herts Radlett area, one on May 8th (GJW).
- Middx Brent Res, a total of 13 on Apr 29th in flocks of six and seven, two flew high E on May 1st and one on May 2nd (LAB, ASMS). King George VI Res, one on Apr 30th (MMe). Staines Res, two N on 9th Apr (DJM), one W on Apr 26th (DJM), one on Apr 29th (DJM), one on May 3rd (KLP) and two on May 4th (CL,MMe,PN,KLP). Staines Moor, two on Apr 30th (DJM).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one flew over on Mar 23rd (CDRH).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, eight on May 4th (JPR,BEW).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, two on May 2nd and 3rd, and one on May 5th (NA,RJA,JPPW). Beddington SF, one on May 2nd, eight flew E on May 4th and one flew N on May 11th (BBR). Queen Elizabeth II Res, nine flew E on May 4th, and one flew N on May 8th (DMH). Walton Res, one on Apr 30th and May 1st and then one on May 3rd (DMH,SJS,JJW).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one flew E on May 6th (ARD,DJ).

1999 Correction

Middx Staines Res, one on Mar 5th not 3rd.

Singles in February and March were followed by a typically strong passage in April and May, peaking as usual at the end of April and early May and noted right across the Area. The best day was May 4th when a total of 36 birds were seen at five sites. Unusually, after the last bird in spring on the early date on May 8th, there was not another record for the rest of the year.

0538 Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus***

Status: regular passage migrant.

The dates of sightings given refer to single birds unless a higher number is shown in brackets.

- Essex Fisher's Green, Apr 19th. King George V Res, May 3rd (2) and May 6th. Rainham Marsh, Apr 14th, July 31st and Aug 4th. Sewardstone, May 6th. Walthamstow Res, May 21st.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, Apr 29th. Hilfield Park Res, Apr 27th. Rye Meads SF, Apr 30th. Troy Mill GP, May 14th and 22nd (2).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, Aug 28th. Brent Res, May 1st (3), 2nd and 4th (2). Harrow School, May 10th (10 flew N). King George VI Res, May 6th. Staines Res, Apr 26th and May 4th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, May 2nd. Dartford Marsh, May 4th (3) and May 7th, Aug 4th (2) and Aug 6th (2). Swanscombe Marsh, July 15th and 29th (2).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, May 18th. Beddington SF, Apr 15th (9) and 29th, May 5th, and Aug 13th (10). Hersham GP, Aug 17th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, Apr 19th, May 15th (3), Aug 1st and 2nd (4). Court Farm, Riddlesdown, Aug 17th (17 flew SE). Walton Res, Apr 25th, May 16th, July 30th, 31st and Aug 5th.

Spring passage was noted in about average numbers between Apr 14th and May 22nd, mostly one or two birds together, but the largest flocks were of nine and ten (both at Beddington). There were 31 sightings, totalling 66 birds, during this period. In autumn, the first sighting was on July 15th and the last on Aug 28th, and there were only 12 sightings totalling 35 birds, but did include the largest flock of the year - 17 in Surrey on Aug 17th.

0541 Curlew***Numenius arquata***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Records were few enough this year to be listed individually, and as most were of single birds, only the dates are given. Where more than one bird was seen, the number is shown in brackets after the date. There were a few wintering birds along the south shore of the Lower Thames at the end of the year, otherwise the majority of sightings were of flyovers, seen

in all months except January, with a clear peak between June and October.

- Essex Fishers Green, Walthamstow Res and Wm Girling Res, Oct 22nd. The same bird flew S over all three sites.
- Herts Amwell GP, June 20th. Cheshunt GP, Aug 9th. Hilfield Park Res, Sept 10th. Radlett area, June 29th. Rye Meads SF, Mar 21st, Sept 3rd and 9th. Troy Mill GP, Apr 23rd.
- Middx King George VI Res, July 15th and Nov 4th. Ponders End, June 28th. Staines Res, Apr 23rd. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, July 5th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, June 26th, Aug 21st and Sept 3rd (3).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, Jan 1st, Feb 19th, Apr 21st (3), Oct 21st and 28th, Nov 5th (5) and Dec 9th (9). Sevenoaks WR, Dec 25th. Swanscombe Marsh, Nov 19th, Dec 2nd and 30th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, Feb 23rd, Apr 23rd and Oct 22nd. Beddington SF, Mar 21st, Apr 23rd, 24th and 27th, June 30th and Aug 13th. Hersham GP, Mar 11th and 15th. Island Barn Res, May 5th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, Mar 15th and 16th, June 24th, 28th and 30th, and July 11th. South Norwood Lake, Oct 22nd (6).
- In Lond Regent's Park, Mar 23rd (DTM).

0545 Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Status: scarce passage migrant

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one adult on Sept 20th (DA,RDA,RJs). Fishers Green, a juvenile on Sept 5th (DA,RDA). Hornchurch CP, a juvenile on Sept 2nd (WC). Rainham Marsh, an adult on Sept 2nd (KB) and 3rd (DTM), and two on Sept 5th (KB). Thames Barrier, one on Mar 20th (JS).
- Herts Amwell GP, a juvenile on Sept 2nd (MI,BR,G,W).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile on Sept 2nd (BBR). Hersham GP, one on Apr 30th (DMH,AQ,SJS).

The two spring records were 40 days apart, but previous records in previous years suggest that late March sightings are not all that unusual. The eight autumn records all came in September and is a better than average showing for the year, although it is anybody's guess how many individuals might have been involved in the seven sightings between Sept 2nd and 5th, in a species that is known to be extremely mobile at times.

0546 Redshank

Tringa totanus

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, but decreasing breeder.

Counts of the wintering population along the Lower Thames remained at very low levels at both ends of the year. Details are given below of all counts received in the months from January to April and October to December, except for Dartford Marsh where these are summarised as

monthly maxima for these months. As is usual, there were practically no records from here between July and September.

- Essex Barking, 142 on Nov 9th, with 63 at Barking Bay/Marsh and 79 at Creekmouth. Rainham Marsh, 102 on Jan 20th.
- Kent Crossness, 33 on Apr 14th. Dartford Marsh, monthly maxima of 139 in January, 53 in February, 40 in March, 16 in October, 150 in November and 100 in December. Swanscombe Marsh, 31 on Mar 12th, 160 on Dec 3rd and 94 on Dec 15th. Thames Barrier, two on Jan 16th and Feb 24th. Thamesmead, 40 on Apr 14th.

Also of note were odd records from the East India Dock Basin (Middlesex) which clearly relate to Thames birds, including 12 on Dec 17th.

Records that relate to the breeding season (including those from the Lower Thames) are shown under counties below, together with the highest counts at other times of year. In the case of the other main populations, in the south-west Middlesex and Walton/Kempton areas, these are summarised by a table showing the highest counts in each month.

- Essex Fishers Green, two pairs were displaying in April and one pair successfully bred. Rainham Marsh, 16 or more pairs were reported as present in the summer months, a very high count, but details of breeding not known.
- Herts Amwell GP, a pair bred and three young seen. Radlett area, 14 on May 5th, and at least three different broods seen in June and July. Rye Meads SF, 11 on Mar 23rd, one pair attempted to breed but no young were seen.
- Middx Hampton Waterworks, a pair bred, with one downy young in June. Kempton NR, two pairs, but no evidence of breeding. These two sites are quite nearby and may involve the same birds. Staines Moor and Stanwell Moor, many birds were displaying in March and June. Stockley Park, a pair displaying on June 17th at a previous breeding site.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, ♂ displaying in May, and a pair may have attempted to breed. Hersham GP, one displaying in May.

Highest monthly counts in Staines and Walton areas are shown in the following table. There is clearly much movement of birds during the year throughout these two areas, and the availability of suitable feeding habitat from one month to the next probably is the main factor in determining this.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Middx	Kempton Park Res	-	1	5	6	8	2	2	-	-	-	9	21
	King George VI Res	3	10	9	4	12	14	1	-	1	6	12	3
	Staines Moor	1	2	10	15	12	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	Staines Res	6	9	9	11	4	2	1	-	-	7	14	19
Surrey	Island Barn Res	2	8	7	6	2	2	2	2	-	-	7	6
	Walton Res	24	12	13	16	14	9	1	1	-	2	19	22

0548 Greenshank***Tringa nebularia***

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.

The first bird of the year was seen at Rainham Marsh on Apr 9th. There were no further spring records until Apr 22nd, and numbers reached five at four different localities between May 1st and 12th, during which time the species was quite widespread. The final bird of the spring and the only June record was one flying over Black Park (Bucks) on June 3rd.

In autumn, first birds were noted at two sites on July 1st, and numbers built up through July to produce some notable counts as is normal in the peak months of August and September. The highest of these were 35 at King George V and Wm Girling reservoirs, 14 at Rainham Marsh, 13 at the partially-drained Wraysbury Res, 11 at Beech Farm GP and 10 at Beddington SF.

Late migrants and wintering birds were reported in Essex on Oct 22nd, at Nov 5th at Dartford Marsh in Kent, and in Herts at Tyttenhanger GP from Nov 19th to Dec 3rd and probably the same bird at Watford on Dec 28th.

In the following summary of records, the highest counts in each sector are given, together with all records outside the usual passage periods.

- Essex Coppermill Filter Beds, five flew S on Aug 20th. King George V Res and Wm Girling Res, a group of 35 flew S over both reservoirs on Aug 26th. Rainham Marsh, 14 on Aug 10th and 11 on Sept 2nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, eight on Aug 26th, seven on Aug 27th and on Sept 2nd. Beech Farm GP, 11 on Aug 13th. Rye Meads SF, five on Aug 20th and Sept 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, five on May 1st, six in August and one from Nov 19th to Dec 3rd. Watford, one on Dec 28th.
- Middx Kempton NR, four on Aug 25th and 26th. Perry Oaks SF, five on May 7th. Wraysbury Res, 11 on Aug 23rd and 13 on 26th.
- Bucks Black Park, one on June 3rd. Queen Mother Res, three on Aug 28th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, eight on Aug 22nd, and one on Nov 5th. Sevenoaks WR, five on Aug 14th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, four on May 6th and seven on Aug 20th. Beddington SF, ten on Aug 1st and 20th. Hersham GP, five on May 4th and six on Sept 22nd. Queen Elizabeth II Res, three on May 4th and six on Aug 21st.

0553 Green Sandpiper***Tringa ochropus***

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant, commonest in autumn.

The table below gives the monthly maxima for those sites from which this species was recorded both with some regularity and in numbers of more than just one or two.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Cornmill Meadows					7	9				
	Rainham				5	2	18	6			
	Wm Girling Res	4	1	3				3	3		4
Herts	Amwell GP				1	4	5		1	1	
	Rye Meads SF	7	2	2	1		4	6		5	5
	Standstead Abbots GP			2	1		5	6			
	Tyttenhanger GP		1	2	1	2	2	1	5	3	2
Middx	Perry Oaks SF	1		5	3	4	3				1
	Stanwell Moor			1	1	2	2	5	1		
Kent	Sevenoaks NR	1	1	3		6	6	2		2	
Surrey	Beddington SF	10	6	9	17	32	25	14	12	13	6
	Hersham GP		1	3	3				5	3	4
	Island Barn Res	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	5	4	2

A count of ten at Beddington SF on Jan 15th was highest winter count, this site also held the peak for the year with 32 in July. Elsewhere this species was extremely widespread as a winter visitor, mostly in ones and twos, but including up to seven at Rye Meads SF. That passage migrants pass through the area in spring is not always obvious as numbers do not always change much, but a count of 17 at Beddington SF on Apr 9th was a clear increase on numbers present here in the weeks previous to this. Most birds had left the area by early May, but the build-up to autumn passage started as early as June 17th when the first returning migrants were seen. Numbers reached their high point during the months of July to September, although counts over ten were only noted at Beddington SF and Rainham Marsh.

0554 Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

- Essex Fishers Green, two on May 6th and one on 7th (IK,CP,RW *et al*). Rainham Marsh, singles on July 31st and from Sept 2nd to 5th (KB *et al*).
- Herts Radlett area, one on May 9th (GJW). Tyttenhanger GP, singles on May 4th and 5th, and from Aug 6th to 18th (AG,AGy,SPe).
- Middx Kempton NR, singles from July 17th to 22nd (KLP,AQ *et al*), and from Sept 3rd to 5th (APG,KLP *et al*).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, one on Aug 10th (RJA,MJG). Beddington SF, one on May 6th (BBR). Hersham GP, one on May 5th (SJS).

The spring started well with seven birds between May 4th and 7th, and another on May 9th, but there were no further records after this. Autumn was extremely poor, only six birds being seen at five sites between July 17th and Sept 5th.

0556 Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Spring and autumn passage movements through the London Area are illustrated in the table below, which gives all counts of ten or more birds for all months between April and October, except June.

		<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Essex	Banbury Res	-	4	2	10	1	2
	Rainham Marsh	-	-	4	-	10	-
	Walthamstow Res	1	7	8	14	6	1
	Wm Girling Res	1	3	22	17	11	-
Middx	King George VI Res	1	9	12	14	3	1
	Wraysbury Res	-	-	22	12	5	-
Kent	Dartford Marsh	-	3	5	14	3	-
	Swanscombe Marsh	-	2	29	4	2	-
Surrey	Beddington SF	1	3	12	10	4	-
	Island Barn Res	5	2	6	4	1	-
	QE II Res	3	6	15	22	3	1

Spring birds probably started arriving on Apr 8th and gradually a slow build up began, reaching a clear peak between May 1st and 13th, with the best day on May 7th with a total of about 35 birds in the Area on that day including several of the high counts shown in the above table. Far fewer were seen in the second half of May. A bird remained at Hilfield Park Res (Herts) on and off throughout June, and one was present at Sevenoaks WR on June 24th and 25th, probably the first of the autumn. Some impressive flocks were again recorded during late-July and August, perhaps not quite reaching the high counts of some recent years. Numbers tailed off rapidly through September, but migrants could be detected well in to October.

Records for the months of January, February, November and December are summarised under counties below, together with all Inner London records during the year. As before, one bird attained elite status by visiting one of the Royal Palaces.

Essex	Banbury Res, up to three in January and February, and two in November. Beckton one on Jan 17th. King George V Res, one on Jan 1st. Mill Meads, one on Jan 23rd. Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 20th and two on 22nd. Walthamstow Res, one or two in January and February, three in November and one in December. Wm Girling Res, one on Jan 24th. It does seem likely that the three or so birds wintering in the Lea Valley at both ends of the year moved around quite a lot.
Herts	Rye Meads SF, one on Nov 4th.
Middx	Bedfont Lakes CP, singles on Feb 13th and Nov 19th. Queen Mary Res, two on Jan 5th and one on Jan 20th.
Kent	Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 1st and two on 21st, singles in November and December. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Dec 15th.
Surrey	Island Barn Res, one on Jan 5th, Feb 3rd, and on Dec 14th and 31st. Walton Res, singles in January, February, November, and December.
In Lond	Battersea Park, two on Apr 21st. Buckingham Palace, one on Apr 14th. Paddington Green, W2, one was heard calling at night on Sept 1st. Regent's Park, in May one on 7th, two on 8th and one on 9th, autumn

singles on July 7th, Aug 1st and 14th, two on Sept 1st, three on Sept 3rd, and singles on Sept 5th and from Sept 7th to 11th.

0561 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

- Essex Beckton, one on Jan 17th. Creekmouth, Barking, one on Aug 2nd. Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 24th.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 17th.
- Middx Staines Res, singles on May 4th, May 11th and July 30th. Wraysbury Res, two on Aug 2nd, one on 7th, three on 13th and singles on Aug 26th, 27th and 31st, Sept 1st and Sept 2nd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on July 28th and one on Aug 19th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on May 6th and July 22nd. Swanscombe Marsh, 15 on May 8th, nine on Dec 3rd and 15th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, singles on May 1st and May 7th. Beddington SF, one on Sept 19th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, singles on July 28th, Aug 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 18th and Sept 20th. Walton Res, two on May 3rd, one on May 4th and 5th, and five on Sept 5th.

Only two single records from the Lower Thames in January preceded the first inland spring migrant on Apr 17th. Apart from a count of 15 at Swanscombe on the Thames on May 8th, no other spring count exceeded two, and passage was short-lived and complete by May 11th. Autumn passage from July 22nd to Sept 20th was equally poor, with the majority of records consisting of just one or two birds, mostly on south-western reservoirs. To finish the year, a group of nine was on the Lower Thames in December.

0567 Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Status: regular, but scarce, autumn migrant; rare in spring and summer

- Essex King George V Res, two adults (a light-phase and a dark-phase) flew over on May 7th (PJV).
- Middx Brent Res, five adults flew S at 11.50 hrs on Sept 16th (ASMS,AGV).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a dark-phase bird from 07.15 to 08.50 hrs on Nov 19th (JAS).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one flew upriver along the Thames at 11.45 hrs on Oct 30th (DWt).
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one juvenile flew SW at 08.50 hrs on Aug 28th (NPS). Beddington SF, six adults (3 dark-phase and 3 light-phase) flew slowly E on May 4th (PA,KJM). Queen Elizabeth II Res, 21 birds (mostly pale-phase adults) were present on Sept 16th from 10.15 to 10.30 hours, then 19 returned at 11.30 to 11.50 hours (CPC,SJS), three (a pale-phase adult and two juveniles) on Oct 7th from 16.43 to 17.22 hrs, also visited the adjacent Walton and Island Barn reservoirs during this time, before leaving to the NW (DMH).

With eight records of about 40 birds this represents one of the best years ever, in terms of both records, as well as the number of birds. The 21 birds at QEII Res is the largest flock of birds seen together in London, beating the previous record of eight at Walthamstow in 1997, but just misses the all time day record of 22 birds at Staines Res in 1992. The peak period for occurrences is between mid-August and late September and the majority of records fell in this period, although two more records in May (both involving flocks) continues the rising trend of spring records of the last decade. The group of five at Brent Res, as well as the movement over QEII Res both took place on Sept 16th – a remarkable day for passage of many birds across London.

0575 Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*
 Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant

As usual it is almost impossible to assess the number of birds moving through the Area during the year, but based purely on the monthly totals (see table below) figures were well down on previous years. Although totals in January, February, November and December were only marginally down on 1999, the total of 13 for March compares with 26 in 1999; in July just nine birds were seen, compared to 17 in 1999. The assumption must be that wintering birds were little changed, but that migration through the Area was significantly down. Interestingly, there were no records between Mar 19th and July 2nd, followed by a noticeable movement of mainly juveniles in July and August, with another lull in September, before a return of the regular wintering contingent in October. Considering the burgeoning population of this colonising gull (both in the near-Continent and along south-east England coasts) and the increasing number of breeding birds in the UK, it would perhaps be expected that numbers in our Area would actually be increasing, rather than decreasing. The best counts during the year were three at Wm Girling Res on Feb 1st and four birds together at the same locality on Dec 2nd – both winter roost counts.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	10	13	-	-	-	9	8	2	8	8	11

Essex	Coppermill Filter Beds (1:1). Holyfield Hall Farm (0:1). King George V Res (2:2). Nazeing GP (0:1). Rainham Marsh (1:2). Walthamstow Res (1:1). Wm Girling Res (3:5).
Herts	Amwell GP (1:1). Broxbourne GP (0:1). Hilfield Park Res (2:2). Rye Meads SF (1:0).
Middx	Brent Res (0:2). Enfield Lock (1:2). Ponders End Lake (1:0). Wraysbury Res (0:1). Wormwood Scrubs (1:0).
Bucks	Queen Mother Res (1:0).
Kent	Dartford Marsh (3:3). Eltham (1:0). Long Reach SF (2:0).
Surrey	Barnes WWT (0:1). Beddington SF (2:2). Croydon (1:0). Queen Elizabeth II Res (2:3). Barnes (0:1). Thorpe Water Park (2:0). Walton Res (0:1).

0577 Franklin's Gull***Larus pipixcan***

Status: rare vagrant

Kent Thamesmead, a second-summer bird from Apr 13th to 16th frequented either the nearby golf course or the R. Thames. This bird was also seen on the Essex side of the river at Barking Bay (GHt *et al*).

The first record for the London Area and a very welcome addition to the London list, much appreciated by the many visitors who made the trek to east London (often in driving rain) to see it.

Presumably the same bird had previously been seen in Dorset at various sites, but mainly Radipole and Weymouth Bay, intermittently from Feb 13th to Mar 2nd, then in Somerset at Cheddar Reservoir between Mar 16th and 22nd and then at Keynsham, Bristol, Avon from Apr 10th to 11th. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0578 Little Gull***Larus minutus***

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter

About 168 birds were seen during the year, close to the average of the last ten years. During the spring (Apr 5th to June 3rd) about 54 birds were seen at eight sites, whilst during the autumn about 76 birds were seen at 14 sites; interestingly a late passage took place in November and December involving 38 birds at ten sites. The table below gives the number of birds seen in each of the last ten years.

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No.	145	92	201	174	444	172	170	152	141	168

Rather surprisingly the first bird of the year did not arrive until Apr 5th when one dropped in at Staines Res, there followed a trickle of passage involving up to three birds around the London reservoirs during April with a peak count of ten at Staines on the 18th. A similar low level of passage followed in May, again only at inland waters, with peak counts of five at



Hilfield Park Res on 5th and ten at Staines on 6th, the last bird of the spring was one at Dartford Marsh on June 3rd.

The first bird of the autumn was at East India Dock Basin on June 24th, followed by two at Queen Elizabeth II Res on 26th. Singles at Barking Bay on July 11th, Crossness on July 23rd and at Queen Elizabeth II Res on Aug 23rd and 31st were the only others seen before September. Two birds were at Wraysbury Res on 3rd, followed by six at Walton Res on 5th, over the next few days four arrived at both Queen Mother and King George V Res, a dribble of passage involving no more than two birds at any site continued through September. Five birds dropped in at Island Barn Res on Oct 19th, then a flock of 13 flew south over Fishers Green on 22nd, with another 22 heading over King George and then Walthamstow reservoirs the same day. One or two birds frequented Island Barn Res during November. During December up to ten were at Swanscombe Marsh early in the month and numbers at Island Barn Res gradually rose to a peak of 14 on 24th. Christmas Day boasted 18 birds at six sites across the region and several birds remained at the west London reservoirs until the year's end.

0579 Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*
Status: rare autumn visitor

Kent Dartford Marsh, an adult in summer plumage on the R. Thames from 08.40 to 12.30 hours on Sept 16th (DM *et al*).

This highly desirable pelagic gull is now an annual visitor to London with records in each of the last four years. The London total now stands at about 78, of which 64 occurred during 'The Great Storm' in October 1987.

0582 Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*
Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder

The largest count this year was 10,000 at Rainham Marsh, a much lower peak count than in recent years, and once again in no way representative of the vast hordes that roost nightly on London waters in the winter months. The breeding colony at Staines Res goes from strength-to-strength with an increase to 14 pairs, although their presence on the tern rafts inevitably displaces Common Terns. Will they start to colonise other sites where there are tern rafts? All counts of 1,500 or more, all breeding records and all counts in Inner London of 200 or more, are given.

Essex Nazeing GP, 1,500 on Nov 28th and 3,000 on Dec 20th. Rainham Marsh, 8,000 on Nov 19th and 10,000 on Dec 17th. Leucistic birds were seen at the following sites: King George V Res, one on July 23rd. Nazeing GP, one in December. Wm Girling Res, two in January and February, and one in December.

- Middx Brent Res, 1,850 on Dec 2nd. Staines Res, at least 14 nests were counted on June 4th, although possibly fewer pairs actually bred, "many young were seen in July and August".
- Kent Thames Barrier, 4,500 on Jan 16th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, monthly peak counts were 2,696 in October, 4,445 in November and 5,021 in December. R. Thames between Putney and Barnes bridges, 1,800 on Jan 16th, 2,225 on Feb 13th and 1,550 on Dec 17th.
- In Lond Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, 390 on Jan 19th, 695 on Nov 22nd, 354 on Dec 13th. Paddington Basin, 200 on Jan 1st and 7th. Regent's Park, 485 on Feb 7th, 315 on 16th and 603 on 28th, R. Thames at Wandsworth, 1,000 between Putney and Wandsworth bridges on Dec 31st. Victoria Park, Hackney, 340 on Feb 1st.

0589 Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

Status: rare visitor

- Essex Beckton, the adult first seen on Nov 20th 1999 remained until Jan 3rd (AJAD,PF).
- Middx Empire Wharf, on the Isle of Dogs, an adult on Aug 14th, and then again from Dec 2nd to Dec 17th (SHn).
- Kent Woolwich Common, an adult on Oct 11th was seen in front of the Royal Military Academy and also on the R. Thames. (JTk). This was the same individual as that seen in Middlesex on the Isle of Dogs.

Three records this year, almost certainly involving just two individuals; it seems likely that the Isle of Dogs and Woolwich individual was the adult that had previously been seen at Greenwich Park (having first appeared there in 1997). The London total remains at 17.

0590 Common Gull *Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant

The largest count of the year was a modest 1,200 at Rainham Marsh and the largest roost count was 800 at Nazeing GP, neither of which are very representative of the true numbers wintering or passing through London during the year. All monthly peak counts of 100 or more and all Inner London monthly maxima of ten or more are given below.

- Essex Nazeing GP, 180 in January, 800 in March and 150 in Dec. Rainham Marsh, 500 in November and 1,200 in December. Walthamstow Res, 260 in March, 200 in November and 204 in December.
- Herts Amwell GP, 280 in January, 250 in February. Ellern Mede Farm, 400 in February and 560 in March.
- Middx Brent Res, 140 in December.
- Kent Blackheath, 100 in September. Danson Park, 200 in January. Hall Place Gardens, 217 in February.

- Surrey Beddington SF, 455 in January and 170 in April. Chelsham, 130 in March. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 490 in March and 320 in August. Walton Res, 410 in January, 480 in February, 280 in March and 610 in December. Wimbledon Common, 150 in December.
- In Lond Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, 29 on Jan 19th, 13 on Nov 22nd. Victoria Park, Hackney, ten in February.

0591 Lesser Black-backed Gull***Larus fuscus***

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; increasing breeder.

At least 100 pairs bred this year (yet another record), although 97% of these were at just two sites - Beckton and Billingsgate; there was only one breeding report from Inner London. It seems unlikely that this is a true indication of breeding totals across the Area, since many sites are inaccessible and consequently un-watched. The highest count of the year was a modest 1025 at Beddington SF in December. All monthly peak counts of 200 or more and all Inner London counts of ten or more birds; in addition all breeding records are given.

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Pairs	0	0	8	17	23	7	9	24	68	100

- Essex Beckton, 76 pairs bred (53 in 1999). Rainham Marsh, 300 in November and 350 in December. King George V Res, 318 in August. Nazeing GP, 350 in Nov and 447 in Dec. Walthamstow Res, 242 in October and 524 in November; 2-6 pairs bred, rearing at least four young (1 pair bred in 1999).
- Herts Amwell GP, 530 in October. Watford, 'several pairs on territory' in High Street.
- Middx Billingsgate Market, about 20 pairs bred (up from 14 in 1999). Staples Corner, at least one pair bred (14+ in 1999).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 224 in June at the mouth of the R. Darent.
- Surrey Barn Elms Res, 205 in November. Beddington SF, 400 in January, 381 in August, 670 in September, 471 in October, 955 in November and 1025 in December. Epsom Common, 300 in December. Island Barn Res, 560 in October, 219 in November and 712 in December. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 304 in January, 219 in February, 360 in August and 233 in November.
- In Lond Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, 17 on Nov 4th. St. Marks Crescent, NW3, one pair nested.

0592 Herring Gull***Larus argentatus***

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

Another record total of 93 pairs bred this year, although 87% of these were at just two localities - Beckton and Billingsgate (for comments on breeding see the previous species). The highest count of the year was 3,410 at Queen Elizabeth II Res in November, well up on last year's best

of 900, but not truly indicative of wintering totals in London. All monthly peak counts of 200 or more, all Inner London counts of 15 or more, as well as all breeding records are given below.

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Pairs	0	0	8	19	11	6	8	26	53	93

- Essex Beckton, 34 pairs bred (23 in 1999). Rainham Marsh, 400 in November and 500 in December. Coppermill FB, 480 in November.
- Herts Amwell GP, 220 in December.
- Middx Billingsgate Dock, about 40 pairs bred (26 in 1999). Staples Corner, at least one pair bred (26+ in 1999).
- Bucks Tilehouse Lakes, 400 in January. Withy Bridge, Iver, 230 in January.
- Kent Thames Barrier area, two pairs bred.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 375 in January, 250 in September, 221 in October and 345 in December. Epsom Common, 300 in December. Island Barn Res, 365 in December. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 430 in January, 340 in February, 430 in August, 3,410 in November and 532 in December. Walton Res, 220 in March.
- In Lond Adamson Road, NW3, several pairs were suspected of breeding at this site. Fisherton Street Estate, NW8, three pairs bred. Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, 32 on Nov 4th, 22 on 2nd and 16 on Dec 13th. Lambeth Bridge, 21 on May 17th. London Zoo, 23 on Feb 14th. Paddington Green, W2, 36 on Jan 1st, 20 on 2nd, 17 on Apr 14th and 100 on July 17th. Paddington Rail Station, 8-10 active nests; 19 on Feb 19th, 26 on May 7th and 34 on May 16th. Regent's Park, 27 on Mar 8th, 29 on Apr 17th and 20 on 18th. St. Marks Crescent, NW3, five pairs nested.

0592.01 Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

Status: rare, but likely to be an increasingly regular visitor.

During the last few years the Herring Gull 'group' (and indeed all the large gulls) have come under increasing scrutiny from both birdwatchers and taxonomists. Observations of 'yellow-legged' Herring Gulls have been listed in previous *LBR*'s since at least 1972 and within the separate heading of Yellow-legged Herring Gull since 1984. Although the precise taxonomic status of 'Caspian Gull' remains unclear, and indeed the subject of some controversy, it seems sensible to publish all the records that we are aware of as 'showing characters of Caspian Gull', rather than ignore them. Their publication here does not imply acceptance either by the LNHS Records Committee or the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. All known records are given.

About 18 records this year is close to the totals of the last two years, at least one bird was a returnee from 1999.

- Essex Banbury Res, a probable adult on Feb 12th (DGDL). Coppermill FB, an adult on Jan 31st (RK,DTM). Nazeing GP, an adult on Oct 23rd (IK).
- Herts Amwell GP, an adult on Jan 8th (BR).

- Middx Brent Res, a second-summer on Apr 15th (ASMS). Queen Mary Res, a fourth-winter on Feb 11th (CL). Wraysbury Res, a fourth-summer on July 27th (CL).
- Kent Crossness, one on Aug 10th and 31st (GCN). Dartford Marsh, one adult on Aug 22nd (DM). Swanscombe Marsh, a third-winter on on Dec 31st (MLn).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, an adult on Nov 22nd, 24th to 26th, Dec 3rd and 6th (RK, JPPW). Beddington SF, singles (unaged) on Jan 13th, Feb 1st, a sub-adult on Feb 3rd, 'near-adult' on 14th, adult on Mar 1st, a first-winter on Mar 4th, a fourth-winter on Mar 10th, and adult on Sept 6th, 16th, 22nd, 25th, 26th, Oct 3rd, 5th, 16th, 17th, Nov 12th and Dec 27th and two adults on Dec 30th (BBR). St Paul's School Playing fields, a second-summer on July 20th, an adult on Aug 23rd and a third-winter on Sept 10th (MBL). Thorpe Water Park, one first-winter on Sept 16th (DGDL). Wandsworth Park, the adult seen in 1998 and 1999 was present on Aug 20th (RJA) also seen at Barn Elms and on Sept 21st (RJA).

0592.02 Yellow-legged Gull***Larus michahellis***

Status: regular migrant and winter visitor, commonest in the autumn, especially along the Thames.

The largest count of the year was 29 at Queen Mother Res on 17th July, followed by two separate counts of 23 birds in July and August from Crossness; as was the case last year these are well down on previous peak counts. Although overall totals remain similar to last year, the peak period fell in July, rather than August (134 in August 1999). Interestingly, there were only three counts from the Essex Thameside sites, which may indicate a lack of coverage, rather than an actual decline. All records from sites recording five or more birds, in the form of monthly peak counts, are given in the table below, with totals from all other sites being listed under 'Other sites'; all Inner London records are listed below the table.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Rainham Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	8	5
	Wm Girling Res	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	4
Mddx	KG VI Res	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	4	1	-	-	-
	Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	10	-	-	-	-
	Wraysbury Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	10	-	-	-	-
Bucks	Queen Mother Res	5	-	-	-	-	-	29	1	1	1	-	3
Kent	Crossness	-	-	-	-	1	2	23	23	7	-	-	-
	Dartford Marsh	4	2	-	-	3	10	19	20	15	6	6	4
	Swanscombe Marsh	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	15	4	6	-	5
Surrey	Beddington SF	3	6	2	-	-	1	5	5	4	3	10	3
	St Paul's School	1	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites		27	12	12	5	2	10	9	5	4	19	22	17
TOTALS		43	25	14	6	6	38	103	94	43	37	47	41

In Lond Regent's Park, two on Jan 2nd, 7th, singles on Feb 7th, 15th Mar 2nd, 8th, two on 28th and one on 30th.

0598 Iceland Gull***Larus glaucooides***

Status: scarce late winter and early spring visitor.

An excellent year with eight records of seven birds, all records falling between the typical dates of Jan 30th and Mar 22nd at the start of the year and from Dec 18th to 29th at the end.

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Birds	4	3	2+	6	3	1	4	11	4	7

- Essex Coppermill FB, a third year bird on Mar 11th (JFk). Wm Girling Res, a first-winter bird on Feb 23rd (SC).
- Bucks Langley Park, an adult on Feb 5th (CL). Queen Mother Res, a first-winter bird on Mar 20th and two (a 1st- and 2nd-winter bird together) on 21st and 22nd (CDRH).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a second-winter bird on Dec 18th to 22nd and 24th (JPA *et al*). Queen Elizabeth II Res, an adult on Jan 30th (DMH,SJS) and a second-winter bird on Dec 29th (SJS), the same bird seen at Beddington.

0599 Glaucous Gull***Larus hyperboreus***

Status: scarce winter visitor; more regular in cold weather.

Another good year with about 11 birds being seen; three of the last four years have been amongst the best ever, although the record year of 1986 (with 21 birds) remains well out of reach. All sightings fell between Jan 22nd and Mar 4th (10 birds) at the beginning of the year and on Dec 27th and 28th (1 bird) at the end of the year. The table below documents all records in the last ten years. All records are given

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Birds	6	5	4	1	2	6	12	11	5	11

- Essex King George V Res, a first-winter on Feb 6th, 7th and 9th (AC,SC,AM). Rainham Marsh, a first-winter on Jan 22nd (DTM), a second-winter on Jan 24th (KB) and a first-winter on Dec 23rd (GB). Wm Girling Res, a first-winter on Feb 5th, 6th, 8th and 9th (RMC,SC,AM) – also seen on King George V -, a third- winter on Feb 23rd (AC), an adult on Feb 24th (RMC,SC) and a 'near-adult' on Feb 26th (AM).
- Middx Broadwater Lake, a first-winter on Mar 4th (AVM,IGJ).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two (1st and 3rd winter) on Feb 9th and Mar 2nd (CDRH), a first-winter on Feb 17th and 18th (CL).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a first-winter from Feb 21st to 25th (GDJM) and another first-winter on Dec 27th (JPA). Island Barn Res, a first-winter on Dec 28th (DMH,SJS) – the Beddington/QEII bird. Queen Elizabeth II Res, a first-winter on Feb 22nd, 23rd and 24th (DMH,SJS) – also seen at Beddington –, another Dec 28th, 30th and into 2001 (DMH,SJS). Walton Res, a first-winter (the QEII and Beddington bird) on Feb 25th and Mar 4th (DMH). Just two birds were involved in the Surrey sightings – a first winter at Beddington/QEII Res/Walton Res at the start of the year and another

first-winter at Beddington/Island Barn Res/QEII Res at the end of the year.

0600 Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers; less common at other seasons.

The highest count of the year was a rather meagre 150 at Rainham Marsh, followed by 125 at Amwell GP, both in December. All monthly peak counts of ten or more birds, as well as all Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Banbury Res, 49 in December. Nazeing GP, 17 in November and 12 in December. Rainham Marsh, 100 in November and 150 in December.
- Herts Amwell GP, 125 in December. Great Amwell, 37 in December.
- Middx Hampton Waterworks, 11 in December. Staines Res, ten in January.
- Bucks Langley Park, 35 in January. Tilehouse Lakes, 14 in January. Withy Bridge, Iver, 42 in January and 70 in December.
- Kent Crossness, 25 in July.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, 13 in April and 28 in November. Holmethorpe SP, 20 in November. Island Barn Res, 16 in December. Morden Hall Park, 20 in November. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 35 in January, 30 in February, 23 in August, 19 in November and 74 in December. Walton Res, 64 in January, 26 in February and 35 in December.
- In Lond Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, one on Sept 11th. Paddington Green, W2, singles on Jan 1st, Feb 11th, two on 19th, on on July 12th, two on Aug 1st and one on 6th. Regent's Park, five on Jan 7th and one on Nov 14th. R. Thames at Millbank, singles on Jan 10th, 11th and 25th. St Thomas's Hospital, one on Dec 8th. Vauxhall Bridge, one on Feb 4th.

0602 Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A more modest collection of records this year following last year's huge influx in February when about 1,000 birds moved through the Area. About 29 records, of approximately 45 birds, were spread throughout the year (only January and August lacked records). The most noteworthy influxes were six records of 15 birds between Feb 27th and Mar 4th and three records of seven birds between Dec 23rd and 25th; the largest flock of the year was four at Walton Res on Feb 27th. All records are given.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Apr 14th and 15th (PD,PF,HV *et al*). Beckton, one on Mar 4th (AJAD). King George V Res, singles on Apr 5th, Sept 16th and Oct 30th (HB,PF,KM,RMC). Nazeing GP, one on Sept 16th (HB). Wm Girling Res, one on Mar 18th (PJV).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, three on Mar 3rd (SHM).

- Middx Brent Res, one on Oct 22nd (ASMS). Broadwater GP, three on Mar 2nd (CL). East India Dock Basin, one on June 14th (RK). King George VI Res, two on Mar 4th (KLP).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Feb 27th, one on Apr 16th, 30th (DM), one on Sept 16th (PR). Swanscombe Marsh, three on Dec 23rd (BEW).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, three on May 6th (JPPW). Beddington SF, singles on Mar 14th, May 5th, three on Dec 23rd and one on 25th (BBR). Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on Apr 9th and one on Nov 28th (DMH, SJS). South Norwood Lake, one on Sept 30th (JF). Walton Res, four on Feb 27th (SJS), two on Apr 7th (CPC,SJS) and one on Sept 19th (SJS).
- In Lond Waterloo Bridge, one on July 20th (JBk)

0611 Sandwich Tern***Sterna sandvicensis***

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in flocks.

A good year with 34 records of 158 birds, although the majority of these occurred in autumn (8/18 in spring and 26/140 in autumn). There was a multiple arrival on Apr 22nd to kick the year off with three at King George V Res, two at Staines Res and up to three on the Walton reservoirs. Singles were at the Walton group the next day, then three each were at King George V and Staines on 30th. The last birds of the spring were two at Queen Mother Res on May 1st and one at Beddington SF on 7th.

Two records in July were followed by six in August (involving 31 birds) and including a flock of 14 birds at Dartford Marsh on 26th. Another 14 were at Queen Mother on Sept 9th, then another multiple arrival of 22 birds at five sites on Sept 16th, better still was a movement of 53 birds at just four sites on 20th (including 14 at Queen Mother and 27 at King George V). The last bird of the year was one at Island Barn Res on Sept 25th.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	2000
Records	34	37	26	54	44	39	29	26	33	34
Birds	64	142	60	127	110	139	69	83	93	158

- Essex King George V Res, three on Apr 22nd (PJV), three on 30th (SC,AM *et al*), six on Sept 16th (AC) and 27 on 20th (AM). Rainham Marsh, three on Sept 16th (RKr). Waltham Abbey, one on Aug 12th (SC). Wm Girling Res, eight on Sept 20th (PJV).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Sept 24th (GSE). Tyttenhanger GP, four on Aug 22nd (GJW).
- Middx Brent Res, ten on Sept 16th (ASMS). Kempton Park Res, two on Sept 23rd (AQ). Staines Res, two on Apr 22nd (PN) and three on Apr 30th (RK). Wraysbury Res, four on Aug 23rd (PN) and two on Sept 20th (CL).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on May 1st, six on Aug 28th, 14 on Sept 9th, one on 16th and 16 on 20th (JAS).
- Kent Crossness, one on Sept 17th (DTM). Dartford Marsh, 14 on Aug 26th (DM), three on Sept 12th (DWt) and two on Sept 16th (PR).

Surrey Barnes WWT, one on July 6th (JPPW), four on Sept 13th (EB) and six on Sept 24th (NPS,JPPW). Beddington SF, one on May 7th (JBk). Island Barn Res, two on Apr 22nd (AQ), one on Apr 23rd – also seen on QEII Res – and one on Sept 25th (DMH). Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on Apr 22nd, one on 23rd and one on July 16th (DMH). Walton Res, three on Apr 22nd (DMH) – also seen on QEII Res.

In Lond Waterloo Bridge, two on Aug 29th (RJA).

0615 Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasing as a breeding species.

Astonishingly the number of breeding pairs took another quantum leap this year, with at least 306 pairs raising a minimum of 144 young (239 and 144 respectively in 1999). The only cloud on the horizon, for the continuing advance of this successful migrant, is the possibility that Black-headed Gulls will displace them from their breeding rafts, as they are beginning to do at Staines Res. All breeding records are given below (number of pairs in brackets), followed by an account of passage in spring and autumn.

Essex Fishers Green, (1). Royal Docks, (4). Walthamstow Res, (68).
 Herts Amwell GP, (6). Cheshunt GP, (13+). Hilfield Park Res, (4-5). Rye Meads SF, (42). Stocker's Lake, (6+).
 Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, (9+). Blackwall Basin, (3). Brent Res, (44). East India Dock Basin, (13). Hampton Waterworks, (1). Limehouse Basin, (1). Ponders End Lake, (14). Staines Res, (58). Stoke Newington Res, a pair on a raft on June 25th.
 Bucks Thorney Country Park, (10)
 Kent Thamesmere Lakes, (1).
 Surrey Lonsdale Road Res, (1). Queen Elizabeth II Res, (20+).
 In Lond Canada Water, SE16, (1).

Spring: The first record of the year was eight at Amwell GP on Apr 2nd. Totals slowly increased with four at King George V on 9th, six at Island Barn Res on 14th, 19 there on 17th, 32 at nearby Queen Elizabeth II Res on 19th. A clear arrival took place on 20th with 86 birds across the region, followed by another clear influx on 25th with 102 birds, including 36 at Island Barn and Hilfield Park respectively and 23 at Bowyer's GP and then next day there were 60 at Staines Res, which was the peak spring count across London. Significant counts continued into **May**, but as usual most were at known breeding sites: 55 at Island Barn Res on 2nd, 58 at Brent Res on 14th and 38 at Staines on 17th.

Autumn: The first evidence of passage usually takes place along the Thames in east London, but a count of 40 at Queen Mother Res on **July** 16th clearly related to dispersing birds, this was followed by 20 at Dartford Marsh on 22nd and a very impressive 150 at Crossness on 23rd and 197 at Barking

Bay on 24th (the latter counts probably involving the same birds). Totals remained high at Crossness with 185 on 29th and still 100 on **Aug** 9th. Peak counts during August included 50 at Swanscombe on 12th, 56 at Crossness on 17th, 77 at Walthamstow Res on 19th, 50 at Thamesmead on 27th and Crossness on 31st. During **September** 18 were at Walthamstow on 2nd, 28 at Crossness on 5th and 40 flew upriver past Dartford Marsh on 12th. On 16th there were 45 at King George V Res and 20 at Dartford Marsh. A late flurry of passage took place on 26th with 29 at King George V Res and 15 at Wm Girling – all heading south. Finally, the only birds seen during **October** were singles at Amwell GP on 1st and Queen Mother on 2nd and the last birds of the year were two Island Barn Res on 5th.

In Lond Chelsea Creek, two on June 30th. Hallfield Estate, W2, two on May 7th. Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, one on June 4th, 5th, ten on June 29th, six on July 4th and three on 5th. Lambeth Bridge, one on July 21st. Limehouse, two on June 27th. Little Venice, two on May 14th, one on 18th, two on May 25th, two on June 6th. Paddington Green, W2, three on May 28th, one on June 24th and 29th, Regent's Canal, one on May 6th. Regent's Park, two on Apr 27th, singles on May 8th, 22nd, June 21st, 23rd, 28th, July 1st, 3rd and 4th, two on 6th and one on July 18th. Victoria Park, three in May, three on June 29th.

0616 Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, occasionally in large flocks.

The first birds of the year were two at Walton Res on Apr 7th. The rest of the spring was fairly unexciting with the peak occurring in the first seven days of May, when there were 47 birds at seven sites; the best flocks of the spring were seven at Brent Res on Apr 14th and ten at Walthamstow Res on May 6th. There was a good spread of records in the autumn with up to two birds at many sites, although there little evidence coordinated movements. The best flocks were eight at Brent Res on Aug 14th and 13 at Rye Meads SF on Sept 16th; the last bird of the year was at King George V Res on Sept 23rd. All records are given.

Essex Banbury Res, ten on May 6th (DGDL). Barking Bay, two on July 24th (SRH). King George V Res, one on Apr 8th and 9th, two on 12th, three on 27th, six on May 2nd, one on 3rd, two on Sept 16th, 17th, three on 18th, two on 19th and one from 20th to 23rd (SC,AM,PJV *et al*). Sewardstone, one on May 13th (HBk).

Herts Amwell GP, one on Aug 15th(GJW). Hilfield Park Res, five on May 4th(GSE). Rye Meads SF, 13 on Sept 16th (RMRG).

Middx Brent Res, seven on Apr 14th, two on July 27th, eight on Aug 14th, two on Sept 2nd and 5th (LAB,JPC,ASMS). East India Dock Basin, two on May 12th and four on Aug 15th (GJ). Hampstead Heath, five on May 6th (WEO). Staines Res, two on Apr 14th, four on 18th, two on 30th and four

on May 2nd (RK,CL,KLP,CDRH). Wraysbury Res, singles on July 23rd and Aug 20th (CL,PN).

Bucks Horton GP, one on May 23rd (CDRH). Queen Mother Res, two on Aug 25th, 29th and one on 31st (JAS).

Kent Crossness, one on July 23rd, two on 24th, one on Aug 9th and two on 31st (ACr,AJAD,DTM,HV *et al*). Dartford Marsh, one on Sept 16th and 17th (DM,PR). Swanscombe Marsh, one on Aug 12th (DM,PR).

Surrey Barnes WWT, two on July 7th and one on Sept 10th (NA,JPPW). Beddington SF, four on Apr 30th (BBR). Island Barn Res, two on Apr 28th, May 1st, three on May 2nd and 3rd, one on 5th and 6th and 18th (DMH,SJS). Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on June 22nd (SJS). Walton Res, two on Apr 7th, three on 9th, two on May 3rd, five on 4th and one on 7th (CC,DMH,SJS *et al*). Wandsworth, one flew upriver on July 9th (RJA).

0624 Little Tern

Sterna albifrons

Status: uncommon, but annual, passage migrant

This was amongst the best years ever with 17 records of 35 birds. Sightings were typically spread throughout the April to September period; the first was at Staines Res on Apr 11th and the last at Dartford Marsh and East India Dock Basin on Sept 12th. The latter record involved a flock of 15 birds – one of the largest to occur in London, only groups of 18 and 19 birds at Queen Mary Res have exceeded this. All records are given.

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Records	18	16	7	12	13	12	12	6	11	17
Birds	28	45	12	24	24	15	38	8	26	35

Essex King George V Res, one on Apr 30th (PJV *et al*), one on May 2nd (AM,PJV) and two on May 7th (AM). Royal Docks, one on May 4th (PD).

Herts Rye Meads SF, one on May 6th (RMRG).

Middx Brent Res, one on May 1st (ASMS). East India Dock Basin, 15 on Sept 12th (GJ). Staines Res, one on Apr 11th (CL), May 6th (APG), two on May 7th (PN) and two on May 8th (AJC).

Kent Crossness, one on July 29th (DWt). Dartford Marsh, one on Sept 12th (DWt).

Surrey Island Barn Res, one on May 4th (PA,KJM,SJS). Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on June 22nd (DMH), one on 29th (DMH). Walton Res, one on May 5th (SJS) and two on June 22nd (DMH,AQ,SJS) - also seen on QEII Res.

0627 Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Status: regular, often common, spring and autumn passage migrant, occasional in summer

A very similar year to 1999 in terms of totals with 327 birds being seen (330 in 1999), but this year spring birds (249) outnumbered autumn birds (78) by 3:1 (compared with 72 in the spring and 258 in autumn 1999). The largest flock was a group of 46 birds at Staines Res on May 7th, which was also the peak day for passage with at least 181 birds moving



through the Area. Rather curiously all spring sightings related to inland waters, with none along the Thames, but autumn sightings were far more frequent along the Thames in east London.

The first birds of the year were three at Staines and one at Island Barn Res on **April** 30th, with two more at King George V Res on **May** 1st. Subsequently peak day totals across the Area gradually rose with nine on 2nd, five on 3rd, 26 on 4th (including 17 at Staines) and 30 on 5th. By 6th the day total rose to 62 (including up to 19 at Walton Res, 15 at King George V and 16 at Staines), but this was dwarfed by a total of at least 181 birds on 7th (with up to 46 at Staines and up to 70 birds moving through King George V during the day). Counts declined slightly across London after this with 22 on 8th, four on 9th, 35 on 12th (including 22 at King George V) and then eight each on 13th and 14th (the last day of spring passage).

Return passage kicked off with two at King George V on **July** 1st, followed by another there on 6th and one at Ponders End Lake on July 6th. A slight lull followed until 23rd when three dropped in at Crossness and one at Beddington SF, but then on 24th a big group of 41 had arrived at Barking Bay. A count of 18 at Crossness on 25th presumably involved the same birds, with totals declining at the latter site to six on 29th. No more were seen until **August** 14th when 12 birds arrived (including six at Wraysbury Res), followed by three on 16th, two on 17th and four on 27th. One at Wraysbury Res on **September** 2nd kicked off the final throes of autumn passage. Two birds were at King George V from 19th to 23rd and another was at the Walton group on 24th and 25th, rising to three on 26th with two of these birds remaining here until **October** 2nd (the last sighting of the year).

0634 White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Status: rare vagrant

Essex Barking Bay, an adult in summer plumage on July 14th (PTs *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. The 29th London record, but the first since 1996; all but three of the London records occurred in autumn.

0665 Feral Rock Dove*Columbia livia*

Status: abundant breeding resident

Relatively few records were received of this unpopular species. After last year's complete blank, there were some breeding records: Rye Meads SF, four pairs; Church Street, NW8, around five pairs; Paddington Green, three pairs; Enfield Chase, 43 pairs nested under a bridge; Morden Hall Park, one or two pairs; Park Farm, Chessington, 19 pairs (an increase).

Few large flocks were recorded outside of Inner London. Highest counts were: Withy Bridge, Iver, 230 on Oct 13th. Dartford Marsh, 170 on Jan 10th and Sept 10th. Broomfield Park, 294 on Feb 11th, 224 on June 30th.

Peak counts for Inner London sites included: Westbourne Grove, a flock of around 200 by the Grand Union Canal throughout the year. Kensington Gardens, 587 on Nov 4th. Limehouse, 155 on Mar 31st. Marble Arch, 200 on Jan 24th. Trafalgar Square, a maximum of 1,200 on June 15th. Euston Square, 160 on Jan 9th.

0668 Stock Dove*Columba oenas*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

Records were received of a minimum of 152 breeding pairs at 53 sites, a substantial increase on the 70 pairs at 40 localities in 1999. Where comparison can be made year on year, there was some evidence of an increase in the number of breeding pairs. As usual the strongholds of the breeding population lay in Essex and Herts, with more scattered breeding in the other sectors. Highest breeding concentrations were as follows: Bricket Wood area, 14 pairs; Bushy Park, seven pairs; Cornmill Meads, six pairs; Waltham Abbey Woods, six pairs; Morden Hall Park, seven pairs.

More large flocks were seen than in 1999, the largest being: 150 to roost at Broadwater GP on Nov 19th. 200 at Chiswell Green on Apr 1st. 200 at Holmethorpe SP on Oct 21st. 100 at Lynster's Farm, Maple Cross on May 19th. 65 at Rainham Marshes on Sept 27th. 60 at Sewardstone on Feb 18th. 104 at Stanwell Moor on Mar 15th. 60 at Withy Bridge, Iver on Mar 30th. A flock of 61 at Wimbledon Common on June 17th was unseasonal. All Inner London records are given.

In Lond Buckingham Palace Gardens, one on May 27th. Hyde Park, two on May 27th. Kensington Gardens, two breeding territories. Paddington Green, a total of three passage birds in spring and 26 in autumn. Primrose Hill, four on Mar 2nd. St John's Wood, singles by Regent's Canal on March 25th, Apr 18th and May 2nd. Regent's Cannel, Kings Cross, one on Aug 10th. Regent's Park, up to 20 in January and 22 in March, five on Apr 23rd, four on Nov 3rd.

0670 Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were few large counts at the beginning of the year as follows: Chiswell Green, 500 on Apr 1st. Coursers Lane Fields, 1,000 on Jan 27th. Hersham GP, a peak of 700 on Apr 2nd. Staines Moor, 300 on Mar 5th.

Very few breeding records of this ubiquitous species were received. No analysis is possible from the data available.

Considerably higher numbers were present in the London area at the end of the year, with a strong passage in the first few days of November. Some of the higher counts are given: Amwell GP, 1,500 on Oct 20th. Barnes WWT, 7,000 S on Nov 4th and 1,200 S on Nov 5th. Brent Res, 2,635 SW on Nov 4th and 1,500 SW on Nov 5th. Hersham GP, 700 on Apr 2nd. Hilfield Park Res, 1,000 on Nov 5th. Horsenden Hill, 900 S on Nov 4th. Morden Hall Park, 1,000 SW on Nov 4th. Regent's Park, 880 on Nov 3rd. South Norwood Lake, 1,400 SW on Nov 4th. Walton Res., 1,385 on Oct 20th.

An albino male was at Brent Res, irregularly throughout the year. Woodpigeons were widely reported from Inner London throughout the year.

0684 Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding records were received from 14 sites, an improvement on the seven sites in 1999 but still insufficient as a basis to comment on population trends. Records suggest continued expansion in the London area. A bird in Crouch End on Feb 24th was described as the first there for several years. There were also increased records from Inner London.

Outside of the breeding season there were few reported flocks. The largest was of 233 birds at Rainham Marshes on Dec 22nd. Other counts included 60 at Maple Cross on Sept 14th and 64 roosting in Pymmes Park on Feb 10th.

Inner London records were as follows:

In Lond Bethnal Green, one in April. Compayne Gardens, NW6, ♂ held territory. Paddington Green, one N on Sept 24th. Regent's Park, up to two birds seen between Mar 10th and Dec 18th.

0687 Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Status: localised breeding summer resident and passage migrant.

The first bird of the year was at Rye Meads SF on Apr 20th, the same date as the first of 1999. Once again, the records received show that few

passage migrants came through the London area and that the breeding population continues at a low ebb. Indeed, there seem to have been further declines and the Turtle Dove is rapidly becoming a scarce bird in the London area. A summary of all records is given for each sector.

- Essex Single territories at Copped Hall, Cornmill Meads, Netherhall GP, Purfleet Chalk Pits and Thurrock Angling Lake. Three territories at Hornchurch CP. No breeding birds at Yardley Hill, a once regular site. The largest group of birds seen was just three at Toot Hill on Aug 1st.
- Herts Amwell GP, up to two birds summered. Six territories at Rye Meads SF. A scattering of mid-summer records from elsewhere suggest there are a few more breeding pairs to be discovered. Largest migrant flock was of five at Tyttenhanger Farm on May 8th.
- Middx Just seven migrants seen and one possible breeding record. Hounslow, two birds on June 1st. Records came from Brent Res, Hampstead Heath, Horsenden Hill and Vicarage Farm.
- Bucks Just one record, of a single bird at Queen Mother Res on Sept 24th.
- Kent Probably bred at Dartford Marsh and in the grounds of Joyce Green Hospital. No more than two birds seen together anywhere at any time.
- Surrey London's biggest flock was the group of six at Beddington SF on May 10th. Breeding was reported from Bookham Common, where there were six territories (12 in 1999), and Headley Heath, where there was a first ever recorded territory. A territorial ♂ was also at Limsfield Chart, but no female was ever seen and breeding is thought not to have occurred.
- In Lond New Cross, two N on May 15th. Migrants noted at Regent's Park on Apr 22nd (2), May 9th, May 12th and Sept 2nd.

0712 Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Status: feral breeding resident.

This species continues to show an uneven population in the London area. A small number of large roosts are established in the Kent and Surrey sectors, with birds dispersing widely during the day, including into the western part of Middlesex and probably from here into Bucks. But it remains scarce in the north and east of London, and has so far barely penetrated into Inner London. Numbers in the Essex and Hertfordshire sectors were typically very low. Surprisingly, given the very high numbers now present in some areas, there were few records of breeding.

The estimated peak counts for each county are given below:

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Essex	1	0	1	5	9	2
Herts	2	1	1	3	3	9
Middx	251	174	282	160	217	150
Bucks	83	133	63	175	114	65
Kent	69	9	187	224	374	750
Surrey	1,185	1,198	3,000	2,272	3,500	3,000

Largest flocks, breeding records and all records for Essex, Herts and Inner London are given below.

- Essex Dagenham Chase and surrounding area, one bird seen on many dates, always in close association with a Woodpigeon. Walthamstow Town Hall, one on Feb 17th.
- Herts Abbots Langley, two on Nov 12th. Bury Lake, one on Sept 18th. Oxhey, one on July 11th. Rye Meads SF, one on Sept 26th. Verulamium Lake, one on July 5th. Waltham Cross, three S on Jan 5th.
- Middx Bushy Park, 21+ breeding, peak count of 45 on Dec 20th. Hampstead Heath, one pair probably bred in Kenwood. Hanwell, a pair on June 2nd. Syon Park, 100 on Sept 25th. West Drayton, territorial pair.
- Bucks Langley Park, 25 on Dec 15th. Wraysbury GP, a peak of 40 on Oct 14th.
- Kent Abbey Hill Park, Sidcup, 110 flying towards roost in August. Beckenham Place Park, a peak of 227 flying to roost on July 30th, one pair bred. Footscray Meadows, 41 on Nov 16th. Goddington Park, up to 40 in July and August. Lewisham Crematorium, peak roost count of 621 on Dec 16th. North Cray, 110 flying to roost on Oct 3rd.
- Surrey Chertsey Meads, two pairs probably bred. Esher RFC, Hersham, a peak count of 2,999 at roost on Oct 14th. Kew Gardens, 60 on Oct 20th. Lonsdale Road Res, a pair probably bred. West Ewell, 50 on July 15th. Reigate, 140 on Mar 21st.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on June 16th and July 13th.

0724 Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

The first of the year were seen on Apr 10th, when there was a single bird at Vicarage Farm. This is seven days earlier than the first arrival date in 1999. Several more arrived over the following weeks, and most sites had their first birds before the end of April. Passage continued well into May, although there were just two records of more than three birds: five at Tyttenhanger GP on May 6th and four at Dartford Marsh on May 12th. Reported widely across the area in June, but accurate estimates of breeding numbers are difficult to obtain. Best counts of territories were six at Rainham Marshes and five-plus at Hornchurch CP. No nests were reported.

Few adults are seen after early July, with later records usually relating to juvenile birds. August records were as follows: Wraysbury GP, one on 5th. Dagenham Chase, one on 17th. Sewardstone, one on 10th. Brent Res, one on 25th. Bushy Park, one on 22nd. Beddington SF, singles on several dates up to 26th. There were two records on Sept 2nd, at Beddington SF and Bushy Park, and finally a very late bird at Chelsham on Sept 28th.

- In Lond Regent's Park, one on May 2nd, later relocated by the Regent's Canal in St John's Wood (ARD,DJ,DTM).

0735 Barn Owl*Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident.

Apparently wild Barn Owls were seen at 11 sites, with evidence of presence at one further site. Two sites reported escaped birds. This is a further fall from the 16 sites reporting the species in 1999. Breeding was confirmed at just one site. There were no sightings in Inner London. All records are given.

- Essex Beckton SF, a pair present, although breeding not confirmed. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 24th and a pair during the breeding season. South Hornchurch, one on Dec 11th was thought to be an escape.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, numerous sightings of up to two birds between Feb 1st and July 24th. Coopers Green Lane, one on Mar 10th. Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Feb 2nd. Panshanger Park, pellets found on Apr 1st. Potters Crouch, one on Aug 30th. St Albans, one on December 26th.
- Middx Rammey Marsh, one on Jan 6th and 9th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Dec 13th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, sightings from January to September, one pair bred.
- Surrey Beddington SF, single birds on July 30th, Aug 31st and Sept 4th.

0757 Little Owl*Athene noctua*

Status: localised breeding resident.

Records came from 60 sites, representing a probable minimum of 36 breeding pairs. This is a disappointing decline from the optimism expressed in the 1999 LBR, where the comparable figures were 85 sites and 64 pairs. Only two sites reported breeding populations of more than two pairs, these were: Bricket Wood area, three plus territories, Bushy Park, six to nine territories and Hampton Court Park, at least 12 pairs. However there were no records this year from some of the main sites of past years and reporting effort for this species does seem to vary considerably from year to year. In particular, there were no reports this year from the more rural parts of the Essex sector. It is to be hoped that many more pairs exist unreported in our area. On the plus side, there was one record from Inner London, where this species is rare, one having been seen at Regent's Park on September 7th.

Numbers of pairs in the breeding season are given below for the past seven years:

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Essex	16	10	6	65	13	20	4
Herts	12	9	9	5	3	19	10
Middx	8	14	14	16	19	13	9
Bucks	24	9	4	3	4	3	
Kent	4	3	3	2	1	1	1
Surrey	9	14	10	14	13	7	9
Totals	51	54	51	106	52	64	36

0761 Tawny Owl***Strix aluco***

Status: common breeding resident.

The number of birds reported in the London area increased this year, with records suggesting around 50 territories, but this was at least in part due to improved reporting in the Essex sector rather than any real evidence of an increase in population levels. Thirteen pairs were found in various parts of Epping Forest, with nine pairs in the Long Running/Jack's Hill area alone, suggesting there is still a healthy population here. Good numbers also at Hainault Forest, with six territories reported. Most other sites had one or at best two pairs. A great many sites had just one or two reports in total during the course of the year, suggesting the true population is higher than records suggest. All records for Inner London are given:

In Lond Aberdare Gardens, NW6, one on Mar 22nd and two on Nov 19th. Compayne Gardens, NW6, single birds on three dates early in the year. Greville Place, NW6, one in late December. Holland Park, one pair bred. Hyde Park, breeding pair present, but two young found dead in March. Kensington Gardens, a single roosting bird seen on several dates in November. Paddington Green, a pair probably bred. Regent's Park, a roosting bird seen on eight dates between Jan 5th and Mar 9th.

0767 Long-eared Owl***Asio otus***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare breeder.

There was a fall in the number of records, with just three roosts located, only two of which were used at both ends of the year. Access to a traditional roost site in the Essex sector, where birds may still be present, was no longer possible. Set against this, the use of a secure roost on an island in Seventy Acres Lake, Cheshunt GP, allowed many London birdwatchers to enjoy good views of this species in 2000. No migrant birds were seen. Breeding was confirmed from only two sites with just two pairs successful. A third pair may have bred. All records are given below:

Essex One heard calling from a private site near Waltham Abbey on Mar 19th. Site A, one, or possibly two, pairs bred.

Herts Cheshunt GP (Seventy Acres Lake), up to nine birds roosting at the start of the year, with the last two present on Mar 19th, one roosted on Nov 14th and up to three from Nov 21st to the end of the year. Site B, up to three birds were roosting in late January and early February. Site C, one or two birds roosting from the start of the year until Apr 24th.

Kent Site D, a maximum of 11 birds roosting at the start of the year and up to five at the end of the year, one pair bred with three young fledged.

0768 Short-eared Owl***Asio flammeus***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in summer.

The number of wintering birds present at the start of the year were low, with around five present at one site (9 at 2 sites in 1999). The distribution was however unusual, with all of these birds in Hertfordshire rather than in their more expected Thames-side haunts. A further four passage birds were seen in the early spring and one in October. Just three birds were seen in the second winter period with only one of these, at Beech Farm GP, apparently wintering. Birds were seen at one Essex site in June, although there was no evidence of breeding. All records are given.

- Essex Barking Marsh, one on June 3rd and 4th (DRs), one on Nov 1st (KB). Dagenham Chase, one on Nov 19th (KB). Fishers Green, one on Mar 9th to 11th (AJG). Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 11th (RK).
- Herts Beech Farm GP, present from Jan 1st to Apr 7th, with a peak of 5 on Feb 13th and again from Oct 1st to Nov 4th when just a single bird was seen (mo).
- Middx Trent Park, a first record for the site, with a single on Mar 21st (RMC).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on May 5th (DM).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one flew over on Sept 29th and on Oct 28th (BBR).

0778 Nightjar***Caprimulgus europaeus***

Status: rare breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

There was an increase from four to five churring males, occupying the two sites used last year in Bucks and Surrey, and an additional site in Surrey. However, much suitable habitat remains unoccupied in the London area. Localities of these probable breeding records are withheld. Records of two passage birds were rejected. Observers should take care to make detailed field notes of any sightings of this rare passage migrant.

- Bucks Site A, two churring ♂ and one or two ♀ present from late May into June.
- Surrey Site B, two churring ♂, records between May 13th and July 19th. Site C, churring ♂ heard on June 15th.

0795 Swift***Apus apus***

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The earliest birds were two at Island Barn Res on Apr 17th. Small numbers were then seen daily until Apr 24th, when there were 50 at Stanwell, and Apr 26th, when there were 50 at Walthamstow Res, 13 at Hilfield Park Res, and 60 at Staines Res. The first large-scale arrival was on 30th Apr, when there were 320 over the Middlesex FB.

May movements were as sizeable as those of 1999, with the biggest flocks reported as follows: Amwell GP, 500 on May 23rd. Beddington SF,

1,000 on May 1st, 23rd and 28th. Hilfield Park Res, 1,000 on May 19th. Staines Res, 1,000 on May 19th and 700 on May 27th. Troy Mill GP, 500 on May 27th.

As usual there were few records of breeding. Amongst those received were c40 pairs at Martins Corner, Dagenham, 15+ pairs, at The Drive, Ilford and nine pairs in Fairlop Road, Leytonstone.

Mid-summer and post-breeding flocks included 500 on July 23rd at Brent Res, 600 on June 24th and 1,100 on June 11th at Queen Elizabeth II Res, and 450 on June 24th at Walton Res. Few were reported after mid-August, with late birds on Sept 24th, when there were three at Sevenoaks WR, one at Beddington SF on Oct 7th and one at Rye Meads SF on Oct 12th.

In Lond Widely reported in Inner London between Apr 27th and Sept 7th. The only breeding record came from Holland Park, where there were 1-3 pairs. The largest flock was of 350 SW over Paddington Green on Aug 12th.

0798 Alpine Swift

Apus melba

Status: vagrant

Surrey Pen Ponds, Richmond Park, one present with Common Swifts from 11.40 to 12.05 hours on May 27th (SCi).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. This was the 14th for London and nine years since the last. The peak time for the species in London is late April to early May, with 21% of all records falling during the period.

0831 Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

Status: breeding resident, locally common in some areas.

There were 36 summering pairs which either bred or probably bred (44 pairs in 1999). This is the lowest figure for several years, but included first breeding records for Beddington SF and Ravensbury Park, Morden. It is likely that undetected breeding took place at other sites.

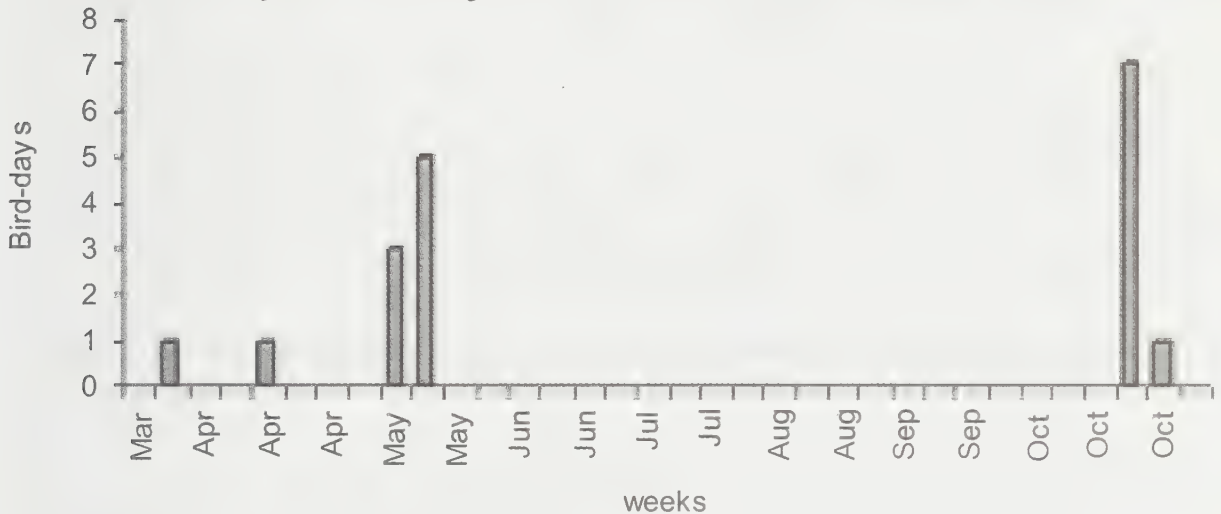
Peak, post-breeding counts were as follows: Amwell GP, eight on Aug 31st. Cheshunt GP, five on Sept 5th. R. Wandle (Carshalton to Morden Hall Park), ten on Mar 26th. Thorpe Water Park, nine on Sept 10th. Walthamstow Res, five on Sept 2nd and Oct 22nd. Wraysbury GP, eight on July 23rd.

Numbers of summering pairs for each sector for the past five years and all Inner London records are given below:

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Essex	9	9	13	10	12
Herts	11	8	10	8	5
Middx	6	6	12	9	5
Bucks	5	4	6	2	1
Kent	3	8	13	8	7
Surrey	13	9	10+	7	7
Totals	47	44	64	44	37

In Lond Buckingham Palace Gardens, single birds on Oct 4th and Dec 16th.
Regent's Park, one on Dec 13th.

Hoopoe bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



0846 Hoopoe
Status: vagrant

Upupa epops

Essex A well-watched bird was present on the reservoir bank at King George V Res on Aug 14th and 15th, until being flushed onto adjoining farmland and not relocated (mo).

The above histogram shows bird days for the last five years, the number in October is the result of a long staying individual. The Essex record was accepted by a description submitted by someone twitching the bird, currently the finder of this bird is still unknown.



0848 Wryneck***Jynx torquilla***

Status: scarce passage migrant, usually in autumn

Middx Feltham, one on Apr 9th in observer's garden (JTHF,CJB).Bucks Wraybury GP, one on May 8th (PN,CDRH *et al*).Surrey Warlingham, one on Aug 31st (EMM).

Three sightings is quite good for this species in the London area, and it could have been even better if two further records had been accompanied by the required descriptions.

0856 Green Woodpecker***Picus viridis***

Status: common breeding resident.

A widespread and increasing species, with records coming from 245 named sites (185 in 1999, 150 in 1998). There was a particularly welcome increase in records for Kent and Middlesex. As with the following species, Green Woodpeckers can now be expected in most suitable habitat throughout the London area. Breeding was confirmed for the Inner London area at Victoria Park, Hackney.

Highest counts of breeding pairs include (1999 figures given in brackets where available): Aldenham area, 5+. Bricket Wood area, 12+ (16+). Cranham Marsh, five. Garston area, 5+ (7). Hainault Forest, 15+. Horsenden Hill, c5. Wanstead Park, 10+ .

The number of localities reporting the species during the last five years and a summary of Inner London records is given below:

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Essex	14+	13+	28+	55	64
Herts	23	19	28+	23	24
Middx	16	6	13	12	23
Bucks	30	26	33	34	39
Kent	11	33	32	19	33
Surrey	28	37	28	32	51
In Lond	5	4	13	12	11

In Lond Buckingham Palace Gardens, pair present in May. Holland Park, ♂ present throughout year. Hyde Park, a territory may have been established. Regent's Park, two pairs. Victoria Park, one pair bred. Records also came from the following localities, Compayne Gardens, Westbourne Grove, Kensington Gardens, Paddington Green, Primrose Hill and St John's Wood.

0876 Great Spotted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos major***

Status: common breeding resident.

Comprehensive recording led to this species being reported from some 220 sites, a further significant increase on the 185 sites reporting the

species in 1999. Great Spotted Woodpeckers are now present in suitable habitat right across London, including the most urban of areas. The species was widely reported in Inner London, where breeding was confirmed at four sites, with probable breeding at three more.

Larger counts of breeding pairs included: Coopersale, five; Hainault Forest, 25; Ongar Park Wood, six; Wanstead Park, six; Bricket Wood area, 12+; Horsenden Hill, eight; Trent Park, 10+; Croham Hurst, five. A table giving the number of breeding sites and territories reported by county is given below:

	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Herts</i>	<i>Middx</i>	<i>Bucks</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Surrey</i>	<i>In Lond</i>
Sites	48	25	12	30	24	54	14
Territories	111	36	33	0	c20	c45	6

A summary of Inner London records is given below:

In Lond Buckingham Palace Gardens, one pair bred. Compayne Gardens/Grenville Place, NW6, occasional sightings of a single bird throughout the year. Holland Park, one pair bred. Hyde Park, one pair bred. Primrose Hill, pair present may have bred. St John's Wood, pair probably bred by Regent's Canal. Victoria Park, a pair bred. Regent's Park, three pairs. Further records came from Kensington Gardens, Limehouse, Little Venice, Paddington Green and Portland Road, W11.

0887 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Status: common, but elusive, breeding resident.

The records received show a further decline in the breeding population of our most elusive resident woodpecker species. The figures show a steady fall over the last two years, reflected in all counties except Herts. Population levels are now lower than they were in 1996. There were no records at all for Inner London.

Breeding season reports (pairs in brackets – one unless stated otherwise) are given below, along with a table showing localities reporting the species in the last five years.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Essex	11	18	23	19	15
Herts	13	25	15	17	17
Middx	14	14	22	23	15
Bucks	9	4	3	0	2
Kent	8	15	28	14	11
Surrey	32	31	32	29	22
In Lond	2	2	2	1	0
Totals	89	109	125	103	82

Essex Belhus Woods CP, Chingford Plain, Connaught Waters, Copped Hall Estate (3), Dagenham Chase, Hainault Forest (4), Highams Park, Ongar Park Wood, Wanstead Park (5), Wintry Wood.

- Herts Aldenham Res, Amwell GP, Bayford and Berrygrove Wood, Bricket Wood, Brookmans Park, Cassiobury Park.
- Middx Brent Res, Bushy Park, Fir & Pond Wood, Forty Hall, Grovelands Park, Horsenden Hill (2), Ruislip Common, Shepperton, Trent Park (3-5, two nests found).
- Bucks Denham GC, Rowley Wood.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, Greenwich Park, Hoblingwell Wood, Sevenoaks WR.
- Surrey Beaulieu Hights Wood, Croydon (Forestdale), Joseph Hood Rec. Ground, Lonsdale Road Res, Morden Hall Park, South Norwood Lake, Wimbledon Common (1-2).

0974 Woodlark***Lullula arborea***

Status: scarce passage migrant and recently re-established rare breeder.

Woodlarks were present in the London area during the breeding season for the fifth consecutive year, although a maximum of just four pairs were present at two sites (8-10 at seven sites in 1999). Far from the expected expansion in Surrey, the major development this year was breeding north of the Thames. All records are given.



- Essex Chingford Plain, one flew over on Oct 26th (KM). Copped Hall Estate, one on Sept 26th, two on Oct 12th (AM,PJV,PAB). Yates Meadow, one on Sept 24th (HV *et al*).
- Herts Amwell GP, one E on Apr 27th (GJW). Site A one or perhaps two pairs bred.
- Surrey Site B, 1-2 pairs in March, four adults in June and four adults and one juvenile on Oct 1st.

0976 Skylark***Alauda arvensis***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Sizeable first winter flocks were more widespread than in 1999 and included the following maxima: 75 at Cobb Fields, Sewardstone on Mar 15th, 100 at Chiswell Green on Jan 16th, 40 at Chipstead Lake on Jan 26th and 55 at Rushett Farm on Jan 24th.

Reports of breeding were again patchy and no clear picture emerged. Knowledge of this species would benefit from a breeding survey in the London area. Significant counts of breeding pairs and counts which can be compared with 1999 data (1999 numbers in parentheses) were as follows: Barking Bay, 27 (21). Belhus Woods CP, 9+. Bushy Park, 9-11 (9). Copped Hall Estate, 16. Dagenham Chase, 10. Epping Long Green, seven (6). Hainault Forest, 15-20. Hounslow Heath, 1-2 (2). Ongar Park wood, four (8). Rainham GP, nine. Rainham Marsh, 86. Stubbers, 12. Swanscombe Marsh, six (16). Whilst the data suggests that breeding birds are now concentrated in the Essex sector, this may just be a function of greater observer effort in that area.

Little autumn passage was noted, but there were some good flocks present at the very end of the year, the largest of which were: 96 at Berwick Ponds on Nov 4th. 120 at Holyfield Hall Farm, Lea Valley on Dec 29th. 250 at Monkams Hall on Dec 30th. 60 at Shafford Farm, St Albans on Dec 3rd. 300 at Cheveralls Farm, Chelsham on Dec 30th.

Inner London records are given below.

In Lond Regent's Park, single birds on Feb 2nd and May 7th.

0981 Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first records of the year were of two birds at both Amwell GP and Wm Girling Res on Mar 12th. Counts of passage birds increased slowly throughout March with the first three-figure count, 110 at Amwell GP, on 23rd. The highest counts were in the first week of April, for example 310 and 390 at Island Barn Res on 4th and 5th respectively, and 200 at Walton Res also on 5th. There was another peak in late April and early May with 200 at Walthamstow on Apr 26th and 200+ at Sevenoaks WR on May 1st.

Breeding was reported from at least 13 sites, which is slightly up on recent years, but this does not reflect the true position as not all sites are reported every year. There was some evidence of an improvement in breeding numbers from several sites but on the downside several nest banks were damaged this year.

The only notable counts in an otherwise unremarkable autumn migration were 300 at Coppermill Filter Beds on Sept 2nd and 233 at Brent Res on Sept 16th. The last autumn birds were singles at Beddington SF and Walton Res on Oct 4th, but these were not the last of the year as there was an astonishing record of one bird over the filter beds at Walton Res on Dec 14th and 15th.

All breeding and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Barking, 16+ pairs on R. Roding (10+ in 1999). Eton Manor Meadow, a number of nest holes were used but no exact count was made. Purfleet Chalk Pits, 85+ nests. Rainham GP, 80+ nests, Royal Victoria Dock, around seven pairs bred (4+ in 1999).
- Herts Amwell GP, 50 birds excavating holes on Apr 4th but no subsequent reports. Tyttenhanger GP, 60-70 holes used (70 last year).
- Middx Church Lammas GP, 34 nest holes. Tottenham Marsh, six pairs nesting on Lea Navigation.
- Bucks Warren Farm, 55 nest holes in use in May, dropping to 53 in July.
- Kent Ruxley GP, several pairs presumed to have bred nearby. Swanscombe Marsh, bred but success unknown. The breeding site was seriously damaged in winter 2000/2001 by spoil dumping from excavations for the Channel Tunnel rail link.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, two juveniles being fed on June 28th and breeding suspected on site or nearby. Beddington SF, nine nests (two in 1999), several pairs were successful despite part of the nesting bank being removed. Hogsmill SF, bred along Hogsmill river. Walton Res, 117 nest holes counted in July with the number of pairs estimated at between 80 and 100.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, one on Apr 23rd. Regent's Park, spring passage from Apr 3rd to May 7th with a high count of 20+ on Apr 3rd. One on July 4th, then a good autumn passage between Aug 7th and Sept 30th with a peak of 15 on Sept 18th.

0992 Swallow***Hirundo rustica***

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first was at Barnes WWT on Mar 19th, which is the earliest arrival since 1994. Spring migration did not get properly underway until the first week of April and peaked in early May, but produced no significant counts.

Many more breeding reports were received this year. These no doubt resulted from increased observer coverage but, where comparison was possible with previous years, there were some indications that the long decline (evident from the mid-1980s) may have, at least, slowed. Let us hope that the future for this species in our area is not as bleak as it has often appeared in the past.

Autumn passage began to be evident from the middle of August and was again strong, although not as impressive as last year. Significant counts included (in date order): Amwell GP, 300 on Sept 3rd and 350 on Sept 5th; Hampstead Heath, 1000+ over on Sept 12th at a rate of 100 an hour; Horsenden Hill, 160+ over S in less than two hours on Sept 16th; Morden Hall Park, c100 over WSW in two hours in the evening of Sept 17th; Walton Res, 140 over W or S on Sept 18th; Wraysbury Res, 200 on Sept 19th; Barn Elms WWT, 300 on Sept 23rd; West Ewell – R Hogsmill, 600 S from 16:00 on Sept 24th; Epsom Downs, 223 over S on Sept 30th; Regent's Park, 250 on Oct 5th.

There were two November records: one S over Headley Heath on 4th and the last of the year perched on telephone wires at Thames Ditton on 19th.

Breeding reports and Inner London records are shown below.

- Essex Colliers Hatch, two pairs. Curtismill Green, at least four pairs. Dagenham Chase, one pair. Grange Hill Farm, three pairs. Hainault Forest, at least three pairs. Little Heath, two pairs. Rainham GP, one pair. South Hornchurch, one pair. Theydon Mont, at least four pairs. Whitehouse Plain, one pair.
- Herts Brickendonbury, three pairs. Bricket Wood, three territories. Cheshunt Park, one pair had at least three young. Radlett, one pair produced three young.
- Middx Stanmore, three nests at Lower Priory Farm, one producing two broods.
- Bucks One observer checked 13 farms in the sector and discovered eight farms had one pair present and two had two or more pairs, while the remainder had no birds.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, five territories in CBC plot (three in 1999 and 1998, one in 1997). Limpsfield, pairs at the Moat (several broods) and at Tenchleys (1-2 broods). Park Farm Chessington, two territories in CBC plot (three in 1999 and two in 1998). West End Common, four nests.
- In Lond Bermondsey, two flew N on Apr 14th. Gloucester Terrace W2, two on Apr 28th. Kensington Gardens, three on Apr 17th. Paddington Green, spring passage of seven birds (mainly N) between Apr 24th and May 14th, autumn passage of 73 birds (mainly W) between Aug 13th and Sept 24th. Primrose Hill, one W on May 8th, four S on Sept 27th. Regent's Park, recorded in spring between Apr 3rd and June 2nd with a maximum of ten on May 11th, autumn records from Aug 21st to Oct 17th with peak counts of 130 on Sept 27th and 250 on Oct 5th.

0995 Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

Status: rare vagrant.

- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one from May 27th to 29th (SHM *et al*).

The tenth record for the London area, the ninth being at Beddington SF last year. It is unusual for a rare hirundine to remain in the same area for more than a few hours, let alone several days. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

1001 House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year was at King George V Res on Mar 28th. Other March records were of singles at Cheshunt GP on Mar 30th and at Island Barn Res on Mar 29th, 30th and two on 31st.

There were more breeding reports in 2000, but this is partly because of increased coverage. Comments from observers varied with some reporting decreases and others increases, but taken as a whole it does seem that there may have been a slight improvement in this bird's breeding fortunes this year.

Diurnal passage in autumn was less obvious than in 1999 but there were some large counts, for example: Beddington SF, a maximum of 1,000 in September; King George V Res, 1,500 on Sept 3rd; Walton Res, 1,000 on Sept 6th and 7th; Wraysbury Res, 1,000+ on Sept 16th. The last two of the year flew SE over Berrylands on Oct 30th.

Reports of breeding and larger Inner London counts follow:

- Essex Beckton, one pair. Buckhurst Hill GP, ten pairs on nearby houses. Chingford, at least five pairs including one nesting in September. Copped Hall, six pairs (eight in 1999). Coppermill Filter Beds, 49 nests (53 in 1999). Dagenham, one pair. Ilford, three pairs. North Woolwich, four pairs (as 1999). Rainham Marsh, at least two pairs. Romford, 26 pairs in Rushgreen Gardens (31 in 1999). Waltham Abbey, 20 pairs in Romelands (17 in 1999) and c20 nests in Plantagenet Close area. Walthamstow, 12 pairs in Sybourne Road (36 in 1999). Whitehouse Plain, around five pairs.
- Herts Abbots Langley, ten nests in Abbots Road (six in 1999). Cheshunt, three pairs at the Old Pond (two in 1999). Chiswell Green, approximately ten occupied nests. Fortunes Farm, around ten pairs. Garston, one pair on Meriden Estate.
- Middx Bow, two nests at Bunsen Street E3. Dalston, 14 pairs in Clarissa Street. Hampstead Heath, 2-3 pairs raised at least one brood (none in 1999). Staines, two occupied nests in Ruskin Road. Stanmore Common, two nests at Little Common (as last year) and three at RNO Hospital (four in 1999). Twickenham, two nests in Cross Deep Gardens.
- Kent Bexley, four nests in village. Failed to breed at Greenwich Park this year.
- Surrey Barnes, 29 nests (22 in 1999) with several new nests built and old ones re-occupied. Berrylands, two nests (as last year). Limpsfield Chart, one nest in village but destroyed by unknown predator. Molesey, 124 nests in census area of two square miles (114 in 1999). Oxted – town centre, 9-10 pairs, not all successful and brood sizes low but better than last year. Oxted – Hurst Green, one pair raised three broods with at least one of the third brood fledging on Aug 20th. Sutton, 59 nests in survey area (40 in 1999). Wimbledon Common, c10 birds reported as attending several nests.
- In Lond Bow, Bunsen Road E3, two nests (one in 1999). Chelsea Wharf, 12 pairs bred by R Thames (three in 1999). Gloucester Place NW1, one pair. Hyde Park, 14 pairs in CBC plot (4-5 in 1999, seven in 1998). Old Kent Road, failed to breed at traditional site. Paddington Green, 1-2 pairs probably bred in the area but this was not confirmed. Regents Park, 80 on Sept 3rd, 100 on Sept 7th and 12th, 150 on Sept 25th and 27th, 220 on

Sept 28th and 190 on Oct 5th. Regent's Park Road, seven nests. Westbourne Grove, at least one active nest in May.

1009 Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Status: passage migrant and decreasing breeding summer visitor.

The first of the year was at Limpsfield Chart on Apr 6th. The breeding fortunes of this species remain at a low ebb: from the small scattering of spring records around 12-13 males stayed singing during the breeding season, while only four pairs were confirmed as definitely breeding. Some 20 birds were reported on autumn passage, with the last of the year at Beddington SF on Oct 8th.

Number of singing Tree Pipits in the London Area 1991-2000

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No	27+	29+	20+	12-13	17-18	21-22	13	20-21	11+	12-13



Breeding season records are summarised below, together with all Inner London records.

- Essex At least two territories held at one extended site and a pair seen carrying food. At another site a bird was present in May but probably remained unpaired. Passage birds were heard singing at three other sites in spring.
- Herts Two sites held at least one singing bird.
- Middx One passage bird held territory for a day.
- Bucks Breeding suspected from one site.
- Kent 1-2 birds were present in May at a site where the species is unlikely to establish itself.
- Surrey Three singing ♂ present at one site and a bird seen carrying food, while two pairs bred at another.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one N on Apr 17th and singles on Apr 30th, Sept 5th, 11th, 13th, 14th and two on 29th.

1011 Meadow Pipit***Anthus pratensis***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor and common but increasingly localised breeder.

The only notable counts for the beginning of the year were at Bushy Park with c60 in January and 55 in February. A number of sites recorded around 40 birds in spring, but the only significant count was 80 at Island Barn Res on Apr 5th. As usual autumn migration produced much larger movements, with the highest counts coming in late September and early October. Counts of over 150 birds in autumn were as follows: Barnes WWT, 335 S on Sept 30th and 180 S on Oct 4th; Beddington SF 150 S on Sept 17th, 250 S on Oct 1st and 5th; Blackheath, 236 on Oct 5th; Chelsham, c300 S over Noar Hill on Oct 1st; Epsom Downs, 178 S on Sept 30th; Hampstead Heath, 150 on Sept 30th; Regent's Park, 150 on Sept 29th and 505 over on Oct 5th.

There were more counts received of breeding or displaying birds this year and a few sites reported decreases. Meadow Pipit remains a common bird, where sufficient habitat exists, but pressures from development will continue to play a big part in its future.

Records of singing males, or known breeding pairs (with numbers in parentheses) are shown below as well as Inner London records.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (41, an increase from 34 in 1999). Beckton (2, decrease of 1 from 1999). Chingford Plain (3). Copped Hall (3+). Dagenham Chase (8+, same as 1999). Fairlop Lake/Plain (6+, down from 8-9 last year). Hainault Forest (1). Hornchurch CP (13+). Netherhall GP (4+ in area). Sewardstone (2). Stubber OPC (8).
- Herts Abbots Langley (1). Beech Farm GP (2, one bred). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Smallford GP (1).
- Middx Bushy Park (11). Hounslow Heath (1). Lake Farm, Hayes (1) carrying food in June. Perry Oaks (1, same as 1999). Rammey Marsh (3, a decrease from 11 last year). Staines Moor (3).
- Kent Crossness (at least five in song, one pair bred, two in 1999). Woolwich Common (c7).
- Surrey Hersham GP (1, same as 1999). Molesey GP (1). Molesey Heath (2, same as last year). Queen Elizabeth II Res (1). Riddlesdown (2, up from one last year). Walton Heath (at least 14 pairs nested, c20 in 1999). Wimbledon Common, no breeding this year (1 in 1999).
- In Lond Paddington Green, 20 over N in just under two hours on Apr 16th, autumn passage between Sept 14th and 27th with no more than three birds a day. Primrose Hill, spring passage from Mar 21st to Apr 10th with maxima of 30 N in one hour on Mar 22nd and 11 NW in 30 minutes on Apr 10th, also two N on Sept 27th. Regent's Park, spring records between Mar 21st and Apr 23rd with 29 on Mar 22nd, autumn records between Sept 12th and Nov 1st with 505 over on Oct 5th.

1012 Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 15th (NG,GDJM).

The eleventh record for the London Area and the fourth for this site. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

1014 Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Passage away from the Thames corridor was at a fairly typical level, with birds being seen at nine sites in spring and 12 in autumn, with no more than three seen together. The last of the spring was at King George V Res on Apr 29th and the first of the autumn was at Queen Mother Res on Sept 24th. As usual several birds were reported showing characteristics of the Nordic and Russian race *A. p. littoralis*.

Records are summarised for the main wintering sites, but all others are given.

Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Mar 24th. Fisher's Green, one on Oct 22nd. King George V Res, singles on Mar 28th, Apr 13th and 29th, and Oct 22nd. Paynes Lane GP, two on Oct 22nd. Rainham Marsh, maxima of 14 in Jan, one in Apr and two in Nov. Wm Girling Res, one on Mar 16th.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 14th and 15th.

Middx King George VI Res, singles on Sept 25th, Oct 20th and 31st. Staines Moor, one on Oct 20th. Staines Res, one on Mar 19th.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, three on Mar 10th, one on Sept 24th and 29th, two on Oct 3rd and 4th, one on Oct 14th, 15th and 21st, two on Oct 22nd, one on Nov 5th to 7th, and on 10th and 20th.

Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Nov 12th and 26th. Swanscombe Marsh, maxima of 29 in January/February, four in March, and 19 in November/December.

Surrey Barnes WWT, singles on Apr 1st and Oct 19th, two on Oct 21st and 22nd, four on Nov 3rd. Beddington SF, one on Mar 17th, 18th, Sept 9th and Oct 10th. Hersham GP, one on Mar 17th. Island Barn Res, one on Oct 25th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, singles on Oct 5th and 6th, 14th, 16th and 20th. Walton Res, one on Oct 5th and 26th.

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Oct 5th.

1015 Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor.

With a minimum of 44 birds from 15 sites, Water Pipit was a little more scarce than usual this year, both on passage and at the main wintering sites, where there was no count higher than eight. The last of the spring was at Staines Moor on May 2nd and the first of the autumn at

Beddington SF on Oct 13th. All records are shown below, except at the main sites where they are summarised.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Mar 31st (SC,AJG,IK,PJV). Rainham Marsh, maxima of eight in January, five in April, three in November (KB,RK).
- Herts Rye Meads SF, two on Oct 21st and 22nd, and two again on Nov 4th (RMRG,GJW), described as "a poor year".
- Middx Brent Res, one on Nov 4th (LAB). Deephams SF, one on Dec 28th (DE). King George VI Res, singles on Nov 12th (MMe), Nov 15th (KLP), Nov 24th (CL) and Dec 23rd (KLP). Staines Moor, singles on Feb 9th, May 2nd, Nov 2nd and 17th, and Dec 15th (CL,RM). Staines Res, one on Nov 10th and 24th (CL). Wraysbury Res, singles on Jan 20th and Nov 19th (CL).
- Bucks Horton GP, singles on Jan 21st and Nov 28th (CDRH).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, one on Oct 20th and one on Nov 5th (NA,RK). Beddington SF, recorded in the first winter period up until Apr 11th with a maximum count of eight on Feb 8th, and recorded again from Oct 13th to the year end, with a maximum of five on Nov 12th (BBR). Hershams GP, one on Mar 19th (PJd) and two on Mar 31st (AQ). Hogsmill SF, one on Oct 19th (JG).

1017 Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing breeder.

The first for the year were two at Watford on the fairly typical date of Mar 27th. There was one at Staines Moor on the following day but passage did not get properly underway until the second week of April, peaking on 15th when 34 birds were recorded across the London area. Passage continued at a moderate level until the first week of May, after which it quickly petered out and hardly any were recorded after 14th.

Nine pairs were reported in the breeding season, from just four sites. One of these held six pairs, which would be cause for celebration were the site in question not Perry Oaks SF, shortly to become Heathrow Terminal Five. Unfortunately, it now seems inevitable that this attractive bird will soon be lost as a breeding species in the London area.

Returning birds began to be recorded from the middle of July, but passage only really picked up in September, when some 330 birds were recorded on passage through the month (compared with 220 in April), with a distinct peak on Sept 17th when 44 individuals were recorded throughout London. The last for the year was at King George VI Res on Oct 14th.

A summary of breeding records and all counts higher than ten are given below:

- Essex Breeding confirmed at two sites. Fishers Green, 20 on Apr 4th. King George V Res, 15 on Apr 12th. Walthamstow Res, 12 on Sept 17th.

- Herts No breeding reports received. Hilfield Park Res, ten on Apr 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, ten on Apr 13th and 15 on May 3rd.
- Middx Perry Oaks SF, six territories. Hampstead Heath, 11 on Aug 28th. Wraysbury Res, 11 on Sept 7th, 16 on Sept 13th, 25 on Sept 16th, 12 on Sept 17th, 13 on Sept 19th, 34 on Sept 22nd and ten on Sept 27th.
- Bucks Pair seen feeding young in June.
- Kent No breeding reports received. Blackheath, ten on Sept 24th
- Surrey No breeding reports received. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 15 on Sept 10th.
- In Lond No breeding reports received. Regent's Park, 14 on Sept 10th and 11 on Sept 14th.

Records of birds showing characteristics of races other than *M. f. flavissima* were as follows:

Blue-headed Wagtail

M. f. flava

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one on Apr 14th (KB). Holyfield Hall Farm, one from Apr 19th to May 9th (SC,PJV). King George V Res, one from Apr 14th to 28th (RMC,KM).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 14th (GSE).
- Middx Staines Res, one on Apr 18th and two on Apr 27th (RK,PN).
- Surrey Barnes WWT, two on May 2nd and 3rd, one on May 4th, two on May 10th (RJA, JPPW).

The Holyfield bird is believed to be a 'Channel Wagtail' and has been reported as a Syke's and the previous year's record should be corrected as a Blue-headed Wagtail bred at the site.

1019 Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Some 66 sites held birds during the breeding season this year; this is a decrease from the 71 sites reported last year, but this probably not a great cause for concern. Taking into account the variable coverage from year to year the number of sites where breeding potentially took place has not varied enormously in recent times:

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of sites holding birds during the breeding season	73	65	66	72	77	71	66

There was some evidence of passage in spring and (more notably) autumn and wintering totals were healthy, particularly in the first winter period. The highest counts for the year were 17 at Rye Meads SF on Nov 4th and 15 at Regent's Park on Oct 2nd.

Breeding season totals are broken down below together with significant counts and Inner London records:

- Essex 17 sites held 18-19 breeding pairs. The highest count was seven at Walthamstow Res on Sept 19th.
- Herts Nine sites held 12 pairs with success noted at two sites. 17 at Rye Meads SF on Nov 4th was by far the highest count.
- Middx Possible breeding was noted at eight sites, with one site holding two pairs. At least four pairs were successful.
- Bucks Two pairs bred.
- Kent At least nine sites held birds in the breeding season. Two pairs raised four young at one site and successful breeding was noted at two others.
- Surrey 19 sites held birds in the breeding season with success noted at six. There were seven at Beddington SF on Oct 14th.
- In Lond One pair bred successfully and another held territory and may have bred. There were 15 at Regent's Park on Oct 2nd. Other birds were noted at Camden Lock, Chelsea Creek, Hackney (Victoria Park), Kensington Gardens (75th annual record), Limehouse, Lower Marsh SE1, Paddington Basin, Paddington Green, Pimlico (Tate Gallery), Primrose Hill, St John's Wood, Vauxhall Bridge, Wapping, Waterloo Bridge and Westbourne Grove.

1020 Pied Wagtail***Motacilla alba***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

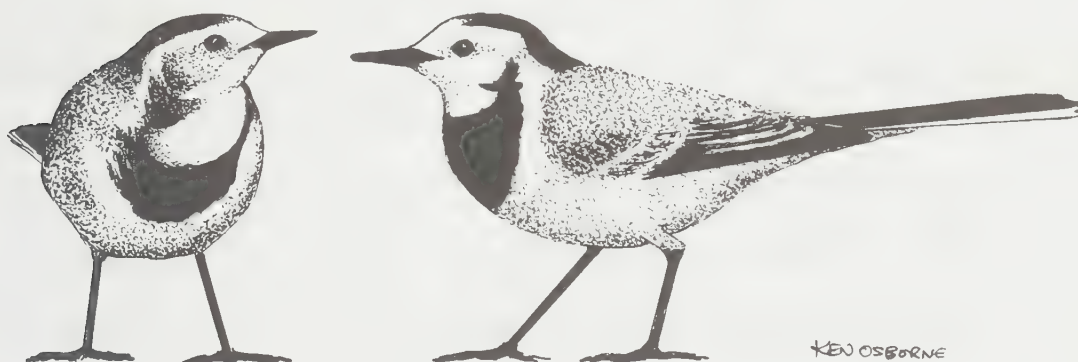
There were roost counts from an increased number of sites this year, with the highest (c250 birds) coming from Croydon. As in previous years, the small scattering of breeding records received falls some way short of providing a true indication of the fortunes of this bird in our area, but the few breeding comparisons that were received indicated stability. Although the days of roost counts in the thousands seem long gone, this remains a widespread species in the London area.

Evidence of breeding, all counts over 50 (or the highest sector count where less than this), all roost counts from regularly watched sites, and a summary of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Several pairs bred at Hainault Forest and Rainham Marsh. Coppermill Filter Beds, 54 on Sept 2nd. Walthamstow Filter Beds, 75 on Oct 22nd.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, five singing males. Abbots Langley, 41 on Feb 25th was the highest count for the sector.
- Middx Breeding recorded at Brent Res, Finsbury Park, Ponders End Lake (two pairs) and Wood Green Res. Perry Oaks SF, 90 on July 8th. Springwell Reedbed, 230 at roost on Feb 28th. Staines Moor, c50 on Nov 20th.
- Bucks No reports received.
- Kent Bred in Orpington and at the Thames Barrier (two pairs). Bromley, roost in town centre, maxima of 100 in January, 37 in February, eight in March and 28 in December.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, two territories in CBC plot (as 1999, three in 1998). Park Farm, Chessington, one territory in CBC plot (as 1999). Beddington SF, 60 on Nov 20th. Croydon, shopping centre roost, c250 in January,

February and December, Epsom, c50 at High Street roost in September and November. Esher, c100 SW over Sandown Park Racecourse to roost on Feb 26th. Hersham GP, maxima of 103 in February, 48 in October and 116 in November. Merstham SF, 65 on Jan 27th. Moorhouse, gatherings on kale fields of 70 on Oct 20th, 63 on Nov 6th, 48 on Dec 18th. QE II Res, maximum 77 on Nov 7th. Sutton, roost in High Street, 120 in January, 110 in February, 90 in December.

In Lond One pair bred at Paddington Basin, and other breeding season records came from Chelsea Wharf and Hyde Park. Regent's Park, recorded between Jan 5th and Oct 26th with maxima of 18 on Oct 5th and ten on Oct 6th. Victoria Park, 18 on Oct 1st.



1020.01 White Wagtail

M. a. alba

Status: passage migrant, rarely identified in autumn.

The first records for the year were at Crossness on Mar 4th and at two other sites on Mar 5th. Spring passage got underway properly towards the end of March and continued until May 20th. There were seven records of eight birds in autumn, with the last at Walthamstow Res on Oct 21st.

All records are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Mar 21st, one or two from Mar 24th to 28th, one on Apr 6th and Sept 9th. King George V Res, three on Apr 1st, one on Apr 7th, 9th, 11th and 28th, four on Apr 29th, one on Oct 11th. Rainham Marsh, one on Mar 26th, six on Apr 7th, two on Apr 11th. Walthamstow Res, two on Apr 20th, one on Oct 21st.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Mar 27th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 7th. Radlett area, one on May 2nd. Watford, one on May 17th.
- Middx Brent Res, two on Apr 5th. Hampstead Heath, one on Apr 3rd. King George VI Res, one on Mar 19th, two on Apr 16th, one on Apr 19th and one on Apr 21st. Perry Oaks SF, one on Mar 25th. Staines Moor, two on Mar 5th, six on Mar 17th, one on Mar 28th and Apr 5th. Staines Res, one on Apr 5th and Apr 13th, three on Apr 14th, nine on Apr 15th, two on Apr 16th, ten on Apr 18th, four from Apr 19th to 21st, two on Apr 22nd, one on Apr 23rd, three on Apr 24th, two on Apr 25th and 26th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 6th.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 11th.
 Kent Crossness, two on Mar 4th. Jubilee Park, one on Mar 5th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 29th.
 Surrey Barnes WWT, two on Mar 26th, three on Apr 1st, two on Apr 22nd, one on May 2nd and 8th. Beddington SF, singles on Apr 5th, 15th and 22nd. Hersham GP, one on Mar 27th. Island Barn Res, singles on Apr 2nd, 5th, 11th and 13th, two on 16th and one on May 6th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, singles on Apr 13th and May 20th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, two on Sept 29th. Walton Res, two on Apr 5th and 6th, three on 7th, one on 13th, four on 14th, one on 16th, six on 17th, three on 18th, six on 19th, three on 20th, one on 25th.
 In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Apr 14th, Sept 20th and Oct 5th.

1048 Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
 Status: uncommon, but sometimes numerous, irruptive visitor.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Nov 17th (KB,PHn). Waltham Abbey, two on Nov 25th (SC).
 Surrey Roundshaw Downs, one feeding on guelder-rose on Dec 31st (JAR).

All were short-stayers. Three records this year is a slight improvement on the two in 1999. The last major irruption was in 1996.

1066 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
 Status: abundant resident.

The few breeding comparisons received present a mixed picture of local gains or losses. There does not seem to have been a great change in the Wren's fortunes this year and it is clear that the species remains common in the London area. A selection of records is given.

- Herts Chess Valley, 16 singing ♂. Chorleywood Common, 16 singing ♂. Rye Meads SF, 54 singing ♂ (43 in 1999 and 32 in 1998).
 Middx Bushy Park, 35 nests. Hounslow Heath, 13 territories (19 in 1999).
 Kent Darenth Valley Walk, 25 on Apr 18th. Horton Kirby, 16 on Apr 11th. Littlebrook Lake, 52 pairs counted in census of area including Joyce Green Hospital.
 Surrey Arbrook Common, 43 territories in CBC plot (53 in 1999 and 57 in 1998). Barnes Common, 35 on Jan 19th. Barwell Court Farm, 30 territories in CBC plot (23 in 1999 and 12 in 1998). Beddington SF, 57 territories (68 in 1999). Cannon Hill Common, 15 territories, as 1999. Elmbridge Leisure Centre, ten singing ♂ on nearby waste ground (nine in 1999). Molesey Heath, five singing ♂. Morden Hall Park, 75 territories (70 in 1999 and 90 in 1998). Park Farm, Chessington, 34 territories in CBC plot (28 in 1999 and 16 in 1998).
 In Lond Buckingham Palace, bred. Hyde Park, eight pairs in CBC plot (7-8 in 1999 and 12 in 1998). Limehouse, 18 on Apr 30th. Paddington Green, at least three territories (three in 1999). Regent's Canal, ten singing in May

(c5 in 1999). St James's Park 5-7 territories (7-8 in 1999). Victoria Park, 13 on June 10th.

1084 Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant resident.

Although Dunnock remains a common bird, there were again reports indicating declines in some areas. A selection of records is given.

- Essex Epping Long Green, four territories. Essex Filter Beds, five territories. Highams Park, five territories. Sewardstone, eight territories. Stubber OPC, four territories.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, 35 singing males (31 in 1999).
- Middx Bushy Park, 12-13 nests (eight in 1999). Gunnersbury Triangle NR, four territories (three in 1999). Hounslow Heath, 19 territories (18 in 1999).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 11 juveniles ringed on June 10th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, ten on Jan 10th and June 18th. Greenwich Park, present all year and bred, numbers possibly falling. Littlebrook Lake, at least 26 pairs counted in census of area including Joyce Green Hospital. Ruxley GP, ten on Mar 17th.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, 11 territories in CBC plot (13 in 1999 and 1998). Beddington SF, 21 territories (33 in 1999 and 19 in 1998). Cannon Hill Common, one territory (three in 1999). Morden Hall Park, 20 territories (same as in 1999). Park Farm, Chessington, six territories (eight in 1999 and seven in 1998). Wimbledon Common, 20 in Brook Cottage area on Oct 14th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on May 6th was the only record for the year. Horseferry Road, one singing on Mar 9th, June 30th and July 4th. Hyde Park, one to two pairs in CBC plot (3-4 in 1999 and 6-7 in 1998). Limehouse, three on Mar 31st and Apr 30th. Paddington Green, two territories. Tate Gallery, Pimlico, one singing in March and April. Victoria Park, seven on Mar 5th.

1099 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

The available data suggests that our breeding Robin population has been at least stable for a number of years, and in fact during 2000 most counts of territories or singing birds were up. Census results are given below. There was no clear evidence of passage or winter influxes this year.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, six territories (two in 1999). Hainault Forest, 80 territories. Hornchurch CP, 27 territories. Rainham Marsh, 12 territories.
- Herts Chorleywood Common, 20 singing birds. Rye Meads SF, 34 territories (21 in 1999).
- Middx Bushy Park, 36-37 nests. Hounslow Heath, 22 territories (23 in 1999).

- Bucks The only information came from Wraysbury GP, where ten juveniles were ringed on May 27th and 14 juveniles ringed on June 10th.
- Kent Bexley Wood, four territories (2-3 in 1999). Littlebrook Lake, CBC revealed 38 pairs in the area including Joyce Green Hospital.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 29 territories in CBC (29 in 1999). Barwell Court Farm, 30 territories in CBC (26 in 1999 and 18 in 1998). Beddington SF, 21 territories (26 in 1999). Cannon Hill Common, 15 territories (12 in 1999). Morden Hall Park, 35 territories (32 in 1999 and 38 in 1998). Park Farm, Chessington, 34 territories in CBC (27 in 1999 and 29 in 1998).
- In Lond Hyde Park, 16 pairs in CBC plot (15-17 in 1999). Paddington Green, W2, four territories (three in 1999). Primrose Hill, four singing birds (two in 1999). Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, six singing birds (five in 1999). St James's Park, four territories (3-4 in 1999).

1104 Nightingale***Luscinia megarhynchos***

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers and scarce passage migrant.

The total number of singing males reported this year was 36 or 37, which is slightly down on the 42 in 1999, but comfortably exceeds the average of 29.7 during the ten years 1990-99. This year's actual total is likely to have been higher, however, since not all reports stated whether or not the birds were in song. Some singing birds were clearly short-staying migrants or midsummer stragglers. The earliest arrival, at Copped Hall (Essex), on April 17th - was rather late, with the 1990-99 average first date being about April 12th. All records are given or summarised.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, two on Apr 30th (KB,LH). Chingford Plain, one singing ♂ on Apr 24th and May 1st (PAB,ELBF). Connaught Water, one singing ♂ on May 1st (ELBF). Copped Hall, one singing on Apr 17th, then 3-4 territories during May (AM). Fishers Green, at least five territories (mo). Sewardstone, one singing ♂ on Apr 20th, then recorded until June 1st; three territories (mo).
- Herts Balls Wood, one on July 17th. Beech Farm GP, one singing from May 6th to 30th (SPe). Cheshunt GP, one on May 1st (DJe). Rye Meads SF, up to three singing until May 13th (AHe,GJW). Smallford GP, one singing from Apr 22nd to May 16th (mo). Stanstead Abbots GP, up to three singing during the summer (AH,TJH).
- Middx Trent Park, one singing from Apr 19th to June 7th (RMC *et al*).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, up to three birds until June 9th (mo).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one singing from Apr 21st to June 3rd (DM,PR). Horton Kirby, at least one on June 1st (TM). Littlebrook Lake, one on May 15th (AJM,BEW).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one singing on June 24th (BBR). Bookham Common, a total of eight territories (mo). Morden Hall Park, one singing male on June 15th (MSR). Purley, one singing "in May and early June" (RSPBCG).

1121 Black Redstart*Phoenicurus ochruros*

Status: breeding summer visitor; passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

As a breeding species, this is one of the more difficult to keep track of in our Area, since singing males are easy to overlook, and territories often inaccessible in the built-up habitat that is favoured. During the ten-year period 1990-99, there was an average of 8.1 proved breeding pairs and 9.2 additional singing males. The figures for last year were eight and five respectively. This year's total of four successful pairs was lower than any during the previous decade, apart from 1992, when just two were recorded. Thirteen additional singing males, however, is up on both 1999 and the ten-year average. The overall picture for recent years, therefore, is not entirely clear, but may be one of approximate stability.

		<i>Pairs proved breeding</i>	<i>Other pairs present</i>	<i>Additional singing males</i>
Essex	Canning Town			1
	Creekmouth			1
	Dagenham Dock			1
	Purfleet			2
	Silvertown	2		
	West Ham			1
Middx	Blackwall Basin			1
	Brimmsdown			1
	East India Dock Basin			1
Kent	Littlebrook PS			1
	Thames Barrier area	1		
In Lond	Borough Market			1
	King's Cross	1		
	Marsham Street			1
	Southwark Street			1
Total		4	0	13

All other records are given below. The pattern suggests a small wintering population, with a few passage migrants mainly in early spring and late autumn, plus one or two in post-breeding dispersal or in song as non-breeders.

- Essex King George V Res, ♂♂ on Jan 9th, with singles on 14th and one on Feb 5th; ♂♂ from Mar 13th to Apr 5th; ♂ on Aug 28th; up to four birds from Oct 14th to Nov 12th and ♂ on Dec 30th. See also Brimmsdown (Middx).
- Herts Rye Meads SF, one on Nov 24th and 25th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 21st.
- Middx Brimmsdown, ♂ on Jan 14th, 25th and Mar 9th; up to five recorded between Sept 25th and Dec 25th - birds here were regularly seen perching on the perimeter fence of King George V Res (Essex). East India Dock Basin, singles on Nov 12th and 26th. King George VI Res, one on Nov 26th and Dec 2nd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Nov 7th.
- Kent Thames Barrier area, single ♀-types seen on May 7th and 18th, with song heard on the latter date. Tripcock Point, Thamesmead, one on July 29th.

Surrey Barnes WWT, singles on Nov 12th and 19th. Island Barn Res, one on Oct 19th and two on Nov 24th. Norbury, one "for a time in October". Walton Heath, one on Oct 4th. Walton Res, singles on Nov 7th and Dec 29th.

1122 Common Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Status: uncommon passage migrant and former breeder.

Starting with singles at two different sites on Apr 10th, spring passage totalled about 16 birds, which is close to the average (17.4) for the ten-year period 1990-99. A good and unusual clutch of records at Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor (Middx) formed the obvious highlight. Autumn numbers, by contrast, were very low, with only about 30 birds reported from across the Area, fewer than in any autumn during 1990-99 when the autumn average was 46.0, bolstered by four strong passages from 1993-96. There was a moderate movement during the last week of August 2000, but September never quite got off the ground. The final record came from Warlingham (Surrey) on Oct 15th. Notably, Vicarage Farm (Middx), which has a splendid recent record of attracting Redstarts, mustered only one this year. Individual records were as follows:

Essex Chingford Plain, one on Aug 30th. Dagenham Chase, ♂ on Aug 18th and one on Oct 12th. Hall Marsh, one on Aug 25th. King George V Res, a juvenile on Aug 28th. Sewardstone, ♂ on Apr 18th. See also Brimsdown (Middx).

Herts Cole Green, a male on Apr 16th. Rye Meads SF, singles from Aug 20th to 28th and on Sept 30th.

Middx Brimsdown, one on Aug 28th, also on the perimeter fence of King George V Res (Essex). Bushy Park, one on Aug 24th. Enfield Lock, one on Aug 28th. Grovelands Park, ♀ on Apr 27th. Hampstead Heath, ♂ on Apr 18th, one on Aug 26th, 28th and Sept 4th. Hampton Court Park, ♂ on Apr 16th. Horsenden Hill, one on Sept 9th. Hounslow Heath, ♂ on Apr 10th. Lower Feltham, one ringed on Aug 28th. Middlesex Filter Beds, ♂ on Sept 30th. Perivale Wood, a female in April. Ruislip Common, ♂ on Sept 4th. Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor, in April: one male on 10th, ♂♂♂ on 14th (two



singing) and two birds on 29th; one on Oct 9th. Vicarage Farm, one on Sept 17th.

- Bucks Wraysbury GP, ♂ ringed on Aug 26th, three birds ringed on Sept 2nd and two birds retrapped on Sept 9th.
- Kent Blackheath, one in a garden on Aug 29th. Greenwich Park, a juvenile on July 18th. Thamesmead, one on Aug 27th.
- Surrey Banstead, one on Apr 29th. Beddington SF, in April: ♂ on 14th and 23rd and ♀ on 21st. Hurst Way, Croydon, one in September. Lloyd Park, Croydon, ♂ on Sept 5th. Morden Hall Park, one on Aug 7th. Warlingham, one on Oct 15th.
- In Lond Paddington Green, W2, one on Aug 29th spent the entire day being harassed by two Robins (DTM).

The above histogram shows that the last week in August is peak week for this species over the last five year with 22% of all records. For that week and the whole of September account for a staggering 70%.

1137 Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Spring passage got underway, with a single at Bushy (Herts) on Apr 19th, and involved about 19 birds at 14 sites, with the last one at Horsenden Hill (Middx) on June 2nd - nearly three weeks after the previous occurrence. All were singles except three records of two birds. April 25th claimed the best day-total with five.

Three stragglers in July and four singles between Aug 7th and 18th preceded the start of the main return migration on Aug 20th. In all, about 213 birds passed through. Late August and early September offered the best opportunity of finding this sprightly insectivore, with the most birds - about 54 - appearing at the most sites (25) during the week of Aug 27th to Sept 2nd. Passage tapered off gradually during the course of September, then picked up again slightly during the first week of October. There were two subsequent October singles and finally a very late bird at Lake Farm (Middx) on Nov 12th.

The highest autumn count at any one site was seven, at Vicarage Farm (Middx) on Sept 9th, while there were six at Dartford Marsh (Kent) and Croxley Moor (Herts) on Sept 3rd and 22nd respectively.

- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Apr 25th and Aug 29th (ARD,DJ).

1139 Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year, 27 or 28 pairs were present during the breeding season at a total of six sites. Rainham Marsh (Essex), the traditional stronghold for

breeding Stonechats in our Area, held at least 16 pairs. During the previous decade (1990-99), the number of pairs varied between only 8-9 in 1997 and 30 in 1990, and the number of sites between only one in 1991 and 11 in 1990. Despite this variation, from 1990 onwards there has been an encouraging overall increase both in nesting pairs and the number of sites that host them. As a passage and winter visitor (often in pairs), the Stonechat is considerably more widespread.

The county-by-county section below summarises breeding-season territories, other breeding-season records, and passage and winter records of more than a single bird. No Inner London sightings were reported this year.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one pair during the breeding season, then up to two birds during October and November. Bretons Lake, two on Oct 18th. Dagenham Chase, two in October and three throughout November. Fishers Green, ♂♂ on Oct 8th. Hornchurch CP, four pairs in the breeding season and ♂♀ during October to December. King George V Reservoir, single pairs during January and on Oct 17th. Netherhall GP, ♂♀ on Dec 17th. Paynes Lane GP, ♂♀ on Oct 22nd. Rainham Marsh, at least 16 breeding territories, but no more than three birds reported outside the breeding season. Walthamstow Res, ♂♀ on Nov 4th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, one pair during January and February and up to four during October to December. Broxbourne GP, two on Feb 29th. Bushey, one on May 27th. Cheshunt Marsh, one on May 6th. Colney Heath, two on Feb 28th. Croxley Moor, up to two in January and October. Rye Meads SF, two on Oct 13th. Stockers Farm, ♂♀ on Nov 11th.
- Middx Brent Reservoir, ♂♀ on Mar 4th accompanied by a Dartford Warbler. Brimsdown, up to three during December. Bushy Park, ♂ on June 24th, with up to three pairs during January and February and up to four birds during March, when the latest record was on 10th; in autumn, recorded from Sept 26th, with up to eight during October to December. Hampstead Heath, up to three in October. Hampton Court Park, ♂♀ on Oct 5th. Horsenden Hill, up to three in November. Hounslow Heath, up to three during September to November. Lake Farm, a juvenile on Aug 6th, then two birds on Sept 16th. Perry Oaks SF, two on Jan 22nd. Staines Moor, up to two during October to December. Tottenham Marsh, ♂ on Nov 19th.
- Bucks Horton GP, ♂♀ on Jan 21st. Wraysbury GP, up to three during October and November.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on July 1st and 22nd; up to four during January to March; autumn records from Sept 17th, with up to five in November. Greenwich, two on Feb 27th. Swanscombe Marsh, ♂♀ on Mar 12th, then up to six during October to December.
- Surrey Banstead Heath, eight on Oct 10th. Barnes WWT, up to four during January to March; first autumn record on Oct 1st, then up to six during October to December. Beddington SF, "up to two pairs present in both winter periods". Chelsham, a juvenile on Aug 13th, then up to two in September to December. Chertsey Meads, ♂♀ in January and March. Headley Heath, "a pair nested successfully". Hershams GP, two on Dec

3rd. Hogsmill SF, two on Dec 17th. Nonsuch Park, up to four during January to March, with ♂♀ during November and December. Queen Elizabeth II Res, up to two during August and September, then up to three in October. Richmond Park, "4-5 territories throughout April... 3-4 territories in May and June... three broods possible for at least one pair"; also up to nine during January to March and up to ten during September to December. Roundshaw Downs, three on Oct 10th. South Norwood CP, no records at this regular wintering site until Feb 25th, but up to six during March; after the first autumn record on Sept 9th, up to three to the end of the year. Walton Heath, "two pairs nested with three successful broods"; maxima of three in September and six in October. Wimbledon Common, two on Mar 4th and 5th and up to two during October to December. Worcester Park SF, up to two during October and December.

1999 correction

The breeding summary inadvertently omitted records from Rainham Marsh. In all, 25 pairs at six sites were recorded during the breeding season, including 17 at Rainham Marsh.

1146 Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

Beddington SF (Surrey) claimed the prize of our first Wheatear this year, with a male on Mar 9th. Eleven more birds arrived from Mar 13th to 18th, and then another 13 from Mar 22nd to 25th. Migration broadened during the week from Mar 26th to Apr 1st, bringing in about 24 birds spread across 18 sites, and then came the busiest week of 2000 - a surge during Apr 2nd to 8th which featured about 85 birds at 23 sites. All four double-figure counts of the year fell within this period, with Beddington SF scoring the highest single count of 18 on Apr 5th. On the same date, King George V Res (Essex) had 14 birds, and counts of ten were made at Swanscombe Marsh (Kent) on 2nd and Beddington SF on 3rd.

There was then a dip in observations until another 43 or so arrived at 25 sites from Apr 16th to 22nd. Late April saw a secondary peak, with about 52 at 19 sites during 23rd to 29th. May numbers were almost confined to the first week, with only eight later spring individuals, with the last a pair inspecting holes at Beddington SF on June 1st.

A more substantial breeding attempt was recorded at a heathland site in Surrey, where a pair was thought to have started incubation in a turf pile during the last days of April. No young were seen and the observers believed that the nest had been predated.

Autumn migration began with a juvenile at Queen Mother Res (Bucks) on July 17th. Birds trickled through gradually until 21 arrived on Aug 20th, including the best individual score of the autumn, at Walthamstow Res (Essex) with eight. Migration remained light throughout September, only to pick up again during Oct 1st to 7th, when about 35 birds were recorded

at 17 sites. There was then a clear tailing-off, and only ten birds appeared from Oct 8th to Nov 8th, when the last one of the year was at Rainham Marsh (Essex).

Inner London records were as follows:

Hyde Park, one on Apr 18th (RFS). Primrose Hill, one on Mar 22nd (DTM). Regent's Park, after the first on Mar 22nd, spring passage featured up to four in April; three arrived on Aug 20th, with about five further birds, the last one on Sept 21st (ARD,DJ,DTM). Lambeth Road, SE1, one on Sept 20th (MSH).

Birds considered to show characters of the race *leucorrhoea* 'Greenland Wheatear' were reported as follows:

- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Apr 25th (PJV). King George V Res, two on Apr 29th (AC).
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, ♂♀ on May 8th (CDRH).
 Surrey Barnes WWT, one on May 8th (JPPW). Beddington SF, one on Apr 22nd (BBR). QE II Res, three on Oct 1st (SJS). Walton Heath, one ♂ on Apr 27th (AP).
 In Lond Regent's Park, one on May 3rd (ARD,DJ).

1186 Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

This year's total was 12 or 13 birds, comprising seven or eight in spring, four in autumn and one in winter. During the previous decade, 1990-99, the average in spring was 17.7, in autumn 9.5 and overall 27.3 - so 2000 was a meagre year indeed for this splendid migrant. The eye-catching winter record at Staines Res (Middx) is not unprecedented: there are three previous winter records for the Area, the most recent one was at Cheshunt (Herts) from Feb 25th to Mar 28th 1996. In spring, records were confined to the period Apr 5th to 23rd and the three autumn birds were all in October and November - a typical spread. All records are given.

- Essex Walthamstow Marsh, ♀/imm on Apr 19th (GJ *et al*).
 Herts Tyttenhanger GP, ♂ on Apr 8th (HL,SP).
 Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, ♀ ringed on Apr 23rd (DGH). Brent Res, ♀ from Apr 5th to 7th (LAB *et al*). Horsenden Hill, juvenile on Oct 22nd (AJC). Staines Res, ♂ on Dec 9th (MGn,PN). Vicarage Farm, probable ♀ on Apr 16th; ♂ on Oct 22nd (RMC).
 Kent Dartford Marsh, ♂ on Nov 12th (BEW).
 Surrey Chelsham, ♂ from Apr 5th to 7th (BJT) and possibly the same ♂ on Apr 11th (BH_y). Richmond Park, ♀ on Apr 13th (FJM).
 In Lond Regent's Park, ♀ on Oct 12th (ARD,DJ).



ABOVE: *Mandarin at Trent Park (Andrew Self)*

BELOW: *Ruddy Duck at Verulamium Lake, St Albans (David Darrell-Lambert)*





ABOVE: *Coot at Brent Res (Andrew Self)*

BELOW: *Sanderling at Queen Mother Res, 24 May 2000 (John Simpson)*





ABOVE: *Common Tern at Brent Res (Andrew Self)*

BELOW: *Rock Pipit at Queen Mother Res, 4 October 2000 (John Simpson)*





ABOVE: *Dartford Warbler* at Brent Res, 4 March 2000 (Leo Batten)

BELOW: *Cattle Egret* at Osterley Park, 2000 (L. Ibbitson)



1187 Blackbird***Turdus merula***

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Few birds are as thoroughly at home in the city as the Blackbird, which must be a familiar sight and sound to every birder in our Area. This year, its adaptability in breeding and feeding behaviour was reported by several observers: in Surrey, Leatherhead Wildlife Hospital treated its first fledgling of the season as early as Feb 15th - a lucky cat victim which survived, while one was heard singing at Woodford Station (Essex) as early as Nov 29th. On Apr 11th, a male was watched eating a discarded sausage outside Tate Britain (Inner London)!

Because the Blackbird is numerous everywhere, it is difficult to prove changes in its status, even though, for example, many Continental immigrants presumably appear in autumn and winter. This year, several observers reported apparent influxes between late September and November, but others who made regular counts found no such evidence. Significant breeding censuses and other counts are given below with 1999 figures in brackets.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, 22 territories. Essex Filter Beds, five territories (8). Hainault Forest, 60+ territories. Highams Park, 24 territories. R. Roding, Ilford to Sewage Works, 36+ territories.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, 21 singing males (20).
- Middx Alexandra Park, 50 on Oct 1st were almost certainly migrants. Bushy Park, 17-19 nests (21). Hounslow Heath, four territories (9). Staines Moor, 50 on Nov 17th and 20th.
- Kent Darenth Valley Walk, maximum of 60 on Jan 27th. Littlebrook Lake, at least 20 pairs in the area.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, CBC total of 12 territories (14). Barwell Court Farm, CBC total of 20 territories (15). Beddington SF, 24 territories (32). Cannon Hill Common, 14 territories (10). Morden Hall Park, 33 territories (30). Park Farm, Chessington, CBC total of 22 territories (19).
- In Lond Hyde Park, 19-20 pairs in CBC plot (20-22). Kensington Gardens, 92 on Nov 4th - the 75th annual count here and lowest total since 1948. Paddington Green, W2, four territories (c5). Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, about four territories (3-4). St James's Park, 7-9 territories (4-5). Victoria Park, Hackney, maxima of 46 on Jan 15th and June 10th.

1198 Fieldfare***Turdus pilaris***

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the absence of really cold weather on the near Continent, this was a year of modest Fieldfare numbers in our Area during both winters. Observers at several well-watched sites commented on this: at Beddington SF (Surrey), for example, the highest count of the year was only ten on Jan 9th and "no large movements recorded in 2000" (BBR);

while at Wimbledon Common (Surrey), a single on Feb 9th was the sole record of the first-winter period (JW per DW).

January sightings were still widespread, with eight localities recording 100 or more birds and 450 at Coursers Lane Fields (Herts) the top count. Numbers were generally higher in February, when 12 sites held three-figure flocks and both Sevenoaks WR (Kent) and Rushett Farm (Surrey) attracted 350. In March, birds began to slip away, with 100 or more at only seven sites, though there were a few pre-migration gatherings, notably of 300 at Trent Park (Middx). There were two large flocks in early April, including 200 at Chelsham (Surrey) on 6th, but Fieldfares were quite scarce after the first week; Stanwell Moor (Middx) claimed the final double-figure flock with 20 on 14th and the latest individual by a week was one at Rushett Farm (Surrey) on 28th - possibly an injured or ill bird.

“Where are they?” London observers must have been wondering in late autumn, as October produced a mere two singles, with the first at Oxhey (Herts) on 10th. A small movement noted at seven sites on Nov 4th was the first real sign of immigration, and this was consolidated during 7th to 9th, when the month’s highest total of 320 flew over Regent’s Park (Inner London) on the first date. Four other sites held three-figure flocks later in the month, but December counts were meagre and only two localities held more than 100, though the 500 on 16th at Park Farm, Chessington (Surrey) was the highest of the year in our Area. Three-figure counts are summarised and all Inner London records given below.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, 155 on Mar 6th. Hornchurch CP, 180 on Nov 9th. More’s Wood, 120 on Feb 9th.
- Herts Aldenham Res, 100 on Feb 10th. Beech Farm GP, 120 on Feb 18th. Brickendonbury, 125 on Feb 3rd. Coopers Green Lane, 100 on Jan 14th. Coursers Lane Fields, 450 on Jan 22nd. Lynsters Farm, 173 on Jan 29th. Nashes Farm, St Albans, 280 on Mar 17th and 150 on Apr 7th. Stockers Farm, 100 on Mar 23rd. Tyttenhanger GP, 250 on Jan 20th.
- Middx Fernyhill Farm, 100 on Nov 8th. Parkside Farm/Res, 250 on Jan 31st and 200 on Mar 13th. Staines Moor, 150 on Feb 12th, 100 on Mar 28th and 100 on Nov 17th and 20th. Trent Park, 300+ on Mar 7th. Vicarage Farm, 100 on Nov 8th. Wormwood Scrubs, 140 on Feb 18th.
- Bucks Delaford Park, 100 on Feb 17th. Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath, 180 on Feb 28th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 350 on Feb 12th and 100 on Mar 22nd.
- Surrey Chelsham, 200 on Apr 6th. Hershams GP, 150 on Feb 19th. Limpsfield Chart, 100 on Feb 26th. Park Farm, Chessington, 500 on Dec 16th and 300 on 27th. Rushett Farm, 150 on Jan 14th, 400 on 29th and 350 on Feb 14th, reducing to 150 on 28th.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, one on Apr 17th and eight on Nov 4th. Regent’s Park, one on Jan 15th and two on 19th; one on Oct 23rd, then 320 over on Nov 7th, 90 on 8th, 60 on 9th, 30 on 10th and 14th, singles on 15th and 27th, and finally four on Dec 7th and nine on 14th. Victoria Park, Hackney, five on Jan 15th and three on Dec 3rd.

1200 Song Thrush*Turdus philomelos*

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Song Thrush has given cause for concern owing to its widespread recent decline as a garden bird in the UK and observers in our Area are being diligent in seeking it out. This year featured an especially strong contribution of data from the Essex sector. Where comparison was possible, counts of territories were generally similar to those in 1999.

As with the Blackbird, hard evidence of passage or winter immigration is usually lacking. During 2000, perhaps the most obvious sign of autumn movement was the count of 35 birds on Nov 7th in Regent's Park (Inner London). Below, details of multiple territories are given (number of territories/ singing males in brackets), and all records are summarised for Inner London.

- Essex Barking Park, (6). Beachet Wood, (2+). Berwick Ponds, (2). Copped Hall, (2+). Corbets Tey Park, (2). Cornmill Meadows, (3). Becontree and District Angling Society Lake, Dagenham, (2). Dagenham Chase, (4). Epping Forest, Conservators Pond, (7). Epping Long Green, (2). Essex Filter Beds, (2). Fairmead, (7). Fishers Green, (7). Greenway, (9). Hainault Forest, (35+). Harrow Lodge Farm, (2). Highams Park, (7). Hornchurch CP, (12). Ilford, Tavistock Gardens, (2). Ongar Park Wood, (8+). Purfleet, (11). Rainham Marsh, (7). Raphaels Park, (3). R. Roding, Ilford to sewage works and adjacent roads, (22+). Sewardstone, (3). South Park, Ilford, (3). Valentines Park, (6). Wanstead Park, (14+). Whitehouse Plain, (3).
- Herts Aldenham Res, (2). Amwell GP, (3). Brickett Wood area, (15+), though survey incomplete. Chess Valley, (4). Garston area, (10+), though survey incomplete. Otterspool, (3). Rye Meads SF, (12). Wall Hall, (4).
- Middx Brent Res, (2). Bushy Park, 8-13 nests. Hampstead, NW3, (6 in 1km BBS square). Horsenden Hill, (10). Hounslow Heath, (7). Middlesex Filter Beds, (2+). Queens Wood, Highgate, (2).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, three adults trapped on June 10th; three trapped, plus one retrap, during September (RRG).
- Kent Beckenham, Croydon Road Recreation Ground, (3). Littlebrook Lake, (4+ on CBC including area round Joyce Green Hospital). Maryon Wilson Park, (3). Woolwich Common, 15 in song on May 7th were thought to be migrants.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, (4). Barwell Court Farm, (4). Cannon Hill Common, (2). Chertsey Meads, (5). Limpsfield Chart, (9). Morden Hall Park, (12). Park Farm, Chessington, (3). South Norwood Lake, (2). Wandsworth Common, (3). Wimbledon Common, "no census in 2000 but population stable."
- In Lond Howley Place, W2, (1). Hyde Park, (4-5). Kensington Gardens, (1). Paddington Green, W2, singles on Jan 1st and Nov 4th. Primrose Hill, (1). Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, (1). Regent's Park, two on Mar 22nd; during October, five on 13th, one on 15th, four on 20th and six on 23rd; 35 on Nov 7th. St James's Park, (3). Victoria Park, Hackney, four on Feb

20th, four on May 21st and four on June 10th. Victoria Tower Gardens, one singing on Jan 26th was the only record of the year.

1201 Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Like the Fieldfare, our smaller winter thrush was widespread rather than numerous during 2000, although its late-autumn immigration was more marked. Six localities held 100 or more during January, with 270 at Little Farleigh Common (Surrey) the highest count. February claimed five three-figure flocks, including 300 at both Park Farm, Chessington (Surrey) and Aldenham Res (Herts). After early March, Redwings were obviously leaving our Area: 100 at Brent Res (Middlesex) on 5th was the month's largest gathering and many sites recorded their latest sightings around 20th. April produced just a sprinkling of records, peaking with ten at Chelsham (Surrey) on 9th. The last birds of the spring were singles at three sites on Apr 17th.

Autumn migration, though initially light, got underway virtually a month earlier than was the case with Fieldfare. First back were two on Sept 21st at Sutton (Surrey) and another two were at South Norwood Lake (Surrey) on 27th. October sightings were widespread from the first week (only two Fieldfares appeared during the month), with many small groups seen or heard passing overhead: 80 at Hampstead Heath (Middx) on 23rd were the most. Then came the peak movement, with five three-figure counts on Nov 4th alone and the year's highest total of 1050 - all flying over - at Regent's Park (Inner London) on 7th. In total, November produced eight three-figure tallies, but most birds seem to have passed swiftly through our Area, since December totals were much lower. There were hardly any around during the first fortnight and no real flocks until a small arrival on New Year's Eve, which brought widespread reports including 300 flying south at Beddington SF (Surrey).

Counts of 100 or more and highest numbers by county are summarised, and all Inner London records detailed below, though abridged for the well-watched Regent's Park.

Essex	Hornchurch CP, 120 on Nov 4 th was the only substantial count received from this sector.
Herts	Aldenham Res, 300 on Feb 10 th . Brickendonbury, 120 on Jan 26 th . Rye Meads SF, 167 on Nov 4 th .
Middx	Brent Res, 100 on Mar 5 th ; 472 flew SW on Nov 4 th . Hampton Court Park, 160 on Feb 12 th . Horsenden Hill, 130+ flew S on Nov 4 th .
Bucks	Chalfont Park, 60 on Jan 10 th .
Kent	Sevenoaks WR, 75 on Jan 15 th .
Surrey	Barwell Court Farm, 100 on Feb 27 th . Beddington Park, 100 on Jan 22 nd . Beddington SF, 300 flew S on Dec 31 st . Farleigh, 270 on Jan 19 th . Hershams, 150 on Jan 9 th . Hershams GP, 108 on Jan 22 nd and 100 on Feb

19th. Limsfield Chart, 125 on Nov 7th. Morden Hall Park, 100 flew WNW on Nov 4th. Painshill Park, Cobham, 250 on Jan 25th. Park Farm, Chessington, 300 on Feb 5th. South Norwood Lake, 200 on Nov 25th.

In Lond Aberdare Gardens, NW6, five on Jan 22nd. Kensington Gardens, one on Apr 17th and 25 on Nov 4th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, 18 on Jan 17th and 12 on Feb 15th. Regent's Park, up to 12 in January; none in February, then noted on eight dates in March (maximum 15 on 6th) and on three dates in April, with the last seven on 13th; first in autumn on Oct 4th, then up to ten during last week; singles on Nov 1st and 3rd, then 1050 over on 7th.

1202 Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding information was particularly patchy for this characteristic resident of parks and large gardens, though this year, as with the Song Thrush, Essex-sector observers put in a concerted effort. Mistle Thrushes are often most numerous when in their post-breeding gangs from June onwards and such records for 2000 included 65 together at Parkside Farm/Res (Middx) on July 27th and 43 on Aug 3rd at Shafford Farm, near St Albans (Herts).

As with the other thrushes, autumn immigration doubtless occurs but is often hard to prove, so it is particularly interesting to note high counts of 62 birds in Regent's Park (Inner London) on Nov 7th - also the peak date there for Redwing and Song Thrush, and 26 at Vicarage Farm (Middx) on Nov 4th.

The county-by-county section shows details of two or more breeding territories (numbers in brackets) and of more notable post-breeding and migration concentrations and at least summarises reports from all Inner London sites.

- Essex Barking Park, (3). Belhus Woods CP, (3). Cranham Marsh, (2). Goodmayes Park, Ilford, (2). Hainault Forest, (14+). Ongar Park Wood, (2). Rainham Marsh, (2). Roding Valley Meadows, (5). South Park, Ilford, (3). Valentines Park, (6+). Walthamstow, Douglas Avenue, (3). Walthamstow Res, 15 on Dec 17th.
- Herts Bricket Wood area, (5+ in partial survey) (12 in 1999). Chess Valley, (2). Garston area, (4+ in partial survey) (six in 1999). Hunton Bridge, 15 on Aug 23rd. Scotsbridge Mill, (2). Shafford Farm, near St Albans, 43 on Aug 3rd.
- Middx Brent Res, 17 on Aug 27th. Bushy Park, (2). Hampstead Heath, up to 20 on several dates in late August and early September. Horsenden Hill, (3). Parkside Farm/Res, post-breeding numbers during July and August peaked with 65 on July 27th, the highest-ever local count. Vicarage Farm, 26 on Nov 4th.

- Kent Darent Valley Walk, 15 on Jan 27th. Foots Cray Meadows, 22 on July 16th. Greenwich Park, (4), influx of 25 or so at end of August." Littlebrook Lake, probably two pairs on CBC including area around Joyce Green hospital. Petts Wood, 18 on Sept 5th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, (2 in CBC) (3 in 1999). Barwell Court Farm, (5 in CBC) (2 in 1999). Beddington SF, a pair bred for the first time. Cannon Hill Common, (2) (three in 1999). Claremont Lake, a flock of 28 on Nov 9th. Limsfield Chart, 15 on Aug 13th. Morden Hall Park, (2) (two in 1999). Park Farm, Chessington, (2 in CBC) (three in 1999). Wimbledon Common, 19 at Sunset Road on July 16th.
- In Lond Buckingham Place/Green Park, (1). Grand Union Canal at Westbourne Grove, three on Sept 13th. Hyde Park, (5-6 in CBC plot) (6-7 in 1999). Kensington Gardens, (1), maximum count nine on Nov 13th. Limehouse, two on May 31st. Paddington Green, W2, (1). Primrose Hill, (1). Priors Road, NW6, two on Nov 9th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, four on May 16th. Regent's Park, 16 on July 25th, four on Oct 5th, three on Oct 15th and 62 on Nov 7th. St James's Park, two on Feb 15th. St Margaret's Church, Westminster, (1). Victoria Park, Hackney, 19 on July 8th. Victoria Tower Gardens, two juveniles on May 2nd. Whitehall, SW1, one on Apr 26th and two on Nov 23rd.

1220 Cetti's Warbler***Cettia cetti***

Status scarce migrant, winter visitor and breeding species subject to periodic colonisation.

- Middx Springwell Lake, one singing on Mar 9th, 25th and 30th (PLs,AVM).

Only one record of a single elusive bird is the worst showing since 1994 when none were recorded.

1236 Grasshopper Warbler***Locustella naevia***

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Fishers Green on Apr 14th, the latest arrival date since 1994. During the spring at least 19 reeling males were located, the lowest number for almost a decade; breeding was only proven at one site, Rye Meads SF. The last bird of the year was at Tottenham Marsh on July 8th. All records are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one from Apr 16th to May 1st (KB,SRP). Fishers Green, one on Apr 14th (SC). Hornchurch CP, one on Apr 27th (KB). Rainham Marsh, two on Apr 24th (KB,MKD). South Hornchurch, four singing on Apr 27th (KB,LH,DMn).

- Herts Amwell GP, one singing on Apr 29th (AFd). Broxbourne GP, singles on May 3rd and June 4th (BR). Potters Crouch, two on May 9th, one on May 22nd (RMO). Rye Meads SF, present from Apr 20th, with a pair raising six young and a second ♂ singing between Apr 29th and May 10th (RMRG *et al*). Stocker's Lake, one singing on June 7th.

- Middx Tottenham Marsh, one singing briefly on July 8th.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, two on Apr 25th and 29th, singles on Apr 27th and 28th and May 20th (DHy,RK,RRG).
 Kent Dartford Marsh, one singing on Apr 21st (DM,DWt,BEW).

1243 Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Rye Meads SF on Apr 1st but generally passage was rather slow with most localities reporting their first birds around the middle of April. There were some very good counts during the breeding season with Rainham Marsh reporting 179 territories, up 25 on last year and Rye Meads SF 75 territories, up 15 on 1999. There were very few good counts during the autumn, 60 at Rye Meads SF on Sept 9th was the best followed by ten at Wraysbury GP on Aug 19th; most birds had gone by mid-September with the last at Swanscombe Marsh on Oct 2nd. Localities with ten or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Hornchurch CP (33+). Rainham Marsh (179). Walthamstow Marsh (30).
 Walthamstow Res (36).
 Herts Rye Meads SF (75).
 Middx Brent Res (10). Broadwater Lake (19).
 Surrey Beddington SF (25).
 In Lond Paddington Green W2, a singing male from May 8th to 10th. Regent's Park, singles on May 7th and 11th.

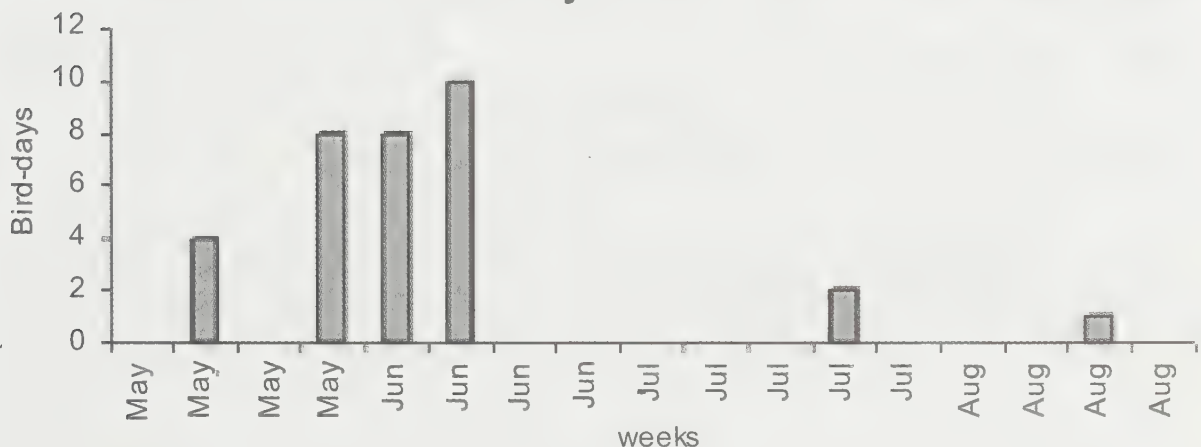
1250 Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant.

- Surrey Beddington SF, a singing ♂ from June 10th to 16th (NG *et al*).

Only one record for the second year running is a very poor showing by recent standards and is perhaps a result of the general decline of this

Marsh Warbler bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



species in south-east England; it is, however, the eighth consecutive year that this nationally scarce warbler has been recorded in the London Area. The peak arrival time for this late spring migrant is the middle of June with 30% of the records, excluded from the histogram below are any confirmed breeding records.

1251 Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first birds of the year were two at Littlebrook Lake on Apr 13th with about another 50 arriving in April before the main influx in early May. During the breeding season around 1,120 singing males were located including an impressive 517 at Rainham Marsh, 14 territories up on last year. Only one locality reported a significant decline in breeding numbers, Bedfont Lakes CP, down to 36 pairs from the usual 50. There were some good counts during the autumn including 77 trapped and ringed at Wraysbury GP on Aug 26th and 40 at Rye Meads SF on Sept 9th; most birds had moved out by mid-September and there were only five reports of single birds in October, with the last of the year at Rye Meads SF on Oct 22nd. Localities with ten or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (27). Belhus Woods CP (23). Berwick Ponds (30-40). Kennington Park (20). Rainham Marsh (517). R. Roding, Ilford to Beckton SF (62+). Walthamstow Marsh (12). Walthamstow Res (26+).
- Herts Amwell GP (11). Cheshunt GP (20+). Rye Meads SF (59).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (36). Brent Res (14).
- Bucks Tilehouse Lakes (10).
- Kent Dartford Marsh (25). Littlebrook Lake (73) on CBC. Ruxley GP (12). Thamesmead (17).
- Surrey Barnes WWT (36). Beddington SF (19). Walton Res (30)
- In Lond Regent's Cannel, Kings Cross, one singing on July 19th. Regent's Park, singles on May 25th and 27th, July 30th, Aug 24th and Sept 4th and 5th. St James's Park, one from June 2nd to 7th. Victoria Park, two pairs bred.

1260 Melodious Warbler

Hippolais polyglotta

Status: rare vagrant from southern Europe.

- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Aug 23rd (DJ).

The eighth London record and the first since 1990, an excellent reward for a dedicated patch-worker.

- 1262 Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*
 Status: rare but annual passage migrant and winter visitor, formerly bred.
- Another very good year with a minimum of 17 birds reported, breeding was strongly suspected at two localities in the Surrey sector and another pair were present in suitable habitat in the Bucks sector.
- Middx Brent Res, ♂ on Mar 4th (ASMS). Bushy Park, ♀ from Jan 1st to Feb 20th, ♀ from Oct 14th to Dec 13th, ♀♀ on Nov 16th, ♀ and a probable ♂ from Dec 14th to 31st (MB,DHy et al). Hounslow Heath, ♀/imm from Oct 26th to Nov 2nd (JHt,KLP). Vicarage Farm, an immature on Oct 8th (RMC).
- Bucks Locality withheld, one on Aug 28th, one on Nov 13th and ♂♀ on Dec 26th.
 Surrey Beddington SF, one from Nov 14th 1999 to Jan 9th. Richmond Park, ♂ from 1999 to Feb 13th, ♂ on Nov 13th (NA,MB et al). Location A, three on Apr 29th, a singing ♂ on May 7th, two on Oct 8th and 15th, Nov 4th and Dec 28th. Location B, 1-2 pairs present in breeding season, six on Dec 29th.
- 1273 Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*
 Status: rare autumn passage migrant.
- 1998 Additional record**
- Middx Tottenham Marsh, one on Aug 29th (DGD,PL,RK et al).
- The sixth London record and the first for Middlesex, the last was at Barking Marsh, Essex, from Sept 11th to 13th 1996. This bird was found on a LNHS field meeting and was only seen three times from 9.30am to 16.00 hrs.
- 1274 Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
 Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.
- The first bird of the year was at Walthamstow Marsh on Apr 16th with the main influx occurring in late April. During the breeding season at least 93 singing males were located including, six at Hornchurch CP, five at Bexley and Ashted Common and four each at Hounslow Heath and Rye Meads SF. The only significant counts of the autumn came from Wraysbury GP where 22 were trapped and ringed on Aug 8th and 14 on Sept 2nd, and Amwell GP, eight on Aug 27th. Most birds had gone by the second week of September and there were only five reports of single birds from the 15th with the last at Dagenham Chase on Sept 29th. All Inner London records are given.
- In Lond Grand Union Canal at Westbourne Grove, a juvenile on Sept 13th. Regent's Park, singles on Aug 10th, 20th and 23rd and Sept 3rd and 10th.

1275 Common Whitethroat***Sylvia communis***

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Molesey GP on Apr 2nd, this is the earliest arrival date for over 20 years. During the breeding season at least 1080 singing males were located including an impressive 193 at Rainham Marsh. Most localities reported stability or an increase in numbers with just a few places recording a decrease but these were mostly marginal sites with low breeding densities so the overall picture is one of optimism. There were only two good counts during the autumn; 25 birds present (of which 15 were trapped) at Wraysbury GP on Sept 2nd and 40 at Rye Meads SF on Sept 9th; most birds had gone by Sept 20th and there were only two October records, both of single birds, at Elmbridge Leisure Centre on the 3rd and the last of the year at Fishers Green on the 13th. Localities with ten or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and Inner London records are given.

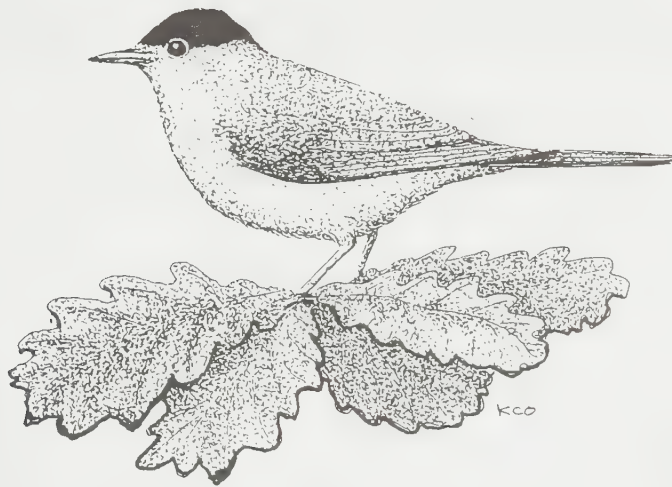
- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (80). Belhus Woods CP (23). Berwick Ponds (20+). Bretons Lake (12). Colliers Hatch (12). Copped Hall (10). Cornmill Meads (15). Cranham Marsh (11). Dagenham Chase (10+) Fishers Green (10+). Hainault Forest (25+). Hornchurch CP (92). Ongar Park Wood (140). Rainham Marsh (193). R. Roding, Ilford to Beckton SF (42). Theydon Garnon (29+).
- Herts Rye Meads SF (32).
- Middx Brent Res (12).
- Kent Littlebrook Lake (52). Ruxley GP (10). Thamesmead (27).
- Surrey Beddington SF (76). Bookham Common (30). Elmbridge Leisure Centre (13). Molesey Heath (23). Wimbledon Common (22)
- In Lond Grand Union Canal at Westbourne Grove, two on Sept 13th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 19th and 29th, Aug 10th, 23rd, 27th and 30th and Sept 5th, two on Apr 28th and Sept 4th and four on Sept 3rd. Victoria Park, one on May 21st.

1276 Garden Warbler***Sylvia borin***

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at the R. Mole near West Molesey on Apr 10th, with the main influx occurring in the first week of May. In the breeding season at least 167 territories were reported from 55 localities. Only two sites recorded good counts during the autumn, Wraysbury GP with 25 on July 29th and Aug 5th and 17 on Aug 19th, and Rye Meads SF with 20 on Aug 11th. During September only 11 reports totalling 15 birds were received including the last of the year at Rye Meads SF on Sept 30th. The overall picture seems to indicate that this species has been badly under-recorded this year. Localities with five or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Fishers Green (8). Hainault Forest (17). Hall Marsh (7). Nazeing GP (10). Ongar Park Wood (6). Walthamstow Marsh (5).
- Herts Rye Meads SF (15).
- Middx Broadwater Lake (22).
- Surrey Ashted Common (8). Bookham Common (23). Elmbridge Leisure Centre (6). Limsfield Chart (5). Wimbledon Common (9).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 25th, two on Apr 26th, singles on Aug 3rd, 17th, 21st and 25th and Sept 3rd and 5th. Westbourne Green, one singing on Apr 22nd.



1277 Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

It is always difficult to separate spring arrivals from over-wintering birds but this year there were very few records in the first half of March; several localities reported what were obvious migrants from Mar 22nd onwards and most sites had singing males by the first week of April. There were a few good counts during the autumn including 52 at Wraysbury GP on Sept 2nd and 50 at Rye Meads SF on Sept 9th. Selected counts of breeding pairs or singing males for each sector are given with the figures for 1999 in parentheses where applicable.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, nine (15+). Dagenham Chase, 11+. Hainault Forest, 100+ (95). Hornchurch CP, 20+ (10-12). Ongar Park Wood, 16 (no change). Rainham Marsh, 10 (no change). R. Roding, Ilford to Beckton SF, (13). Wanstead Park, 23.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, 8+ (12). Rye Meads SF, 30 (32). Stocker's Lake, seven.
- Middx Bentley Priory, ten (11). Brent Res, 24 (25). Bushy Park, 14-15 (18). Grovelands Park, 12. Horsenden Hill, 10. Hounslow Heath, eight (7).
- Bucks Black Park, nine. Tilehouse North Lake, three.

- Kent Foots Cray Woods, 16. Littlebrook Lake, 32. Maryon Wilson Park, seven (8). Ruxley GP, 12-13. Thamesmead, ten.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 12 (13). Beddington SF, nine (12). Lonsdale Road Res, six (8). Morden Hall Park, 13, (11). Park Farm, Chessington, 12 (9).

The table below shows the minimum number of birds recorded in each sector during the winter months January-February and November-December. Good numbers were reported in January, especially from Surrey where almost all the records related to birds visiting gardens. Numbers during the other three winter months were slightly down on average, but mild weather during these months probably enabled birds to exploit a wider range of feeding habitats, negating the need for them to visit gardens as regularly as they do during colder weather.

	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Herts</i>	<i>Middx</i>	<i>Bucks</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Surrey</i>	<i>Inner London</i>	<i>Total</i>
Jan	2	4	10	1	3	23	0	43
Feb	1	3	3	0	2	15	0	24
Nov	0	6	3	0	1	9	2	21
Dec	2	5	5	0	0	8	2	24

In Lond At least 17 pairs were reported to have bred this year, 14 down on 1999 but no breeding data was received from Regent's Park where 12 pairs bred last year so it seems likely that breeding numbers are stable; a summary of records is given below.

Bunhill Fields, one singing on May 8th. Holland Park, 5-6 bred. Hyde Park, four singing on May 5th, one pair bred. Kensington Gardens, three singing on Apr 12th. Primrose Hill, two territories. Regent's Canal at St Johns Wood, 3-5 territories. Regent's Park, highlights of spring passage included 20 on Apr 19th and 12 on Apr 25th, the best autumn count was 12 on Sept 9th. St James's Park, one territory. Victoria Park, two on Apr 14th and June 10th.

1301 Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Status: very rare vagrant.

Essex Fairlop Lake/Plain, one on Oct 1st (AB,KB).

The first London record of this distinctive eastern phyllosc. Nationally, 2000 was the best year on record for this species with as many as 30 being recorded during the autumn including seven at Spurn, East Yorkshire, on the same day as the Fairlop bird. Accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

1308 Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Status: scarce passage migrant and irregular breeding summer visitor.

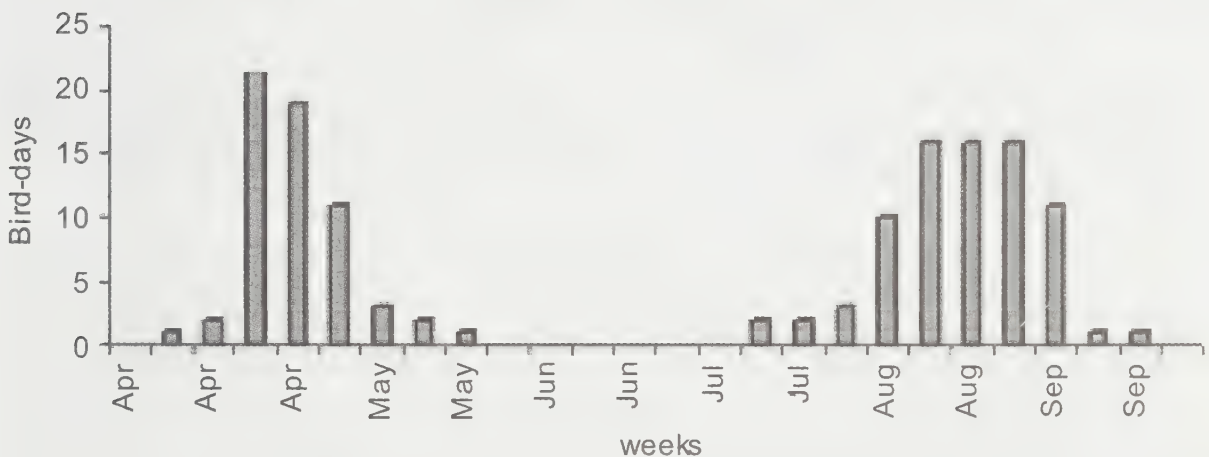
Another abysmal year with just 12 birds reported (eight in the spring and four in the autumn) from six sites; once again Regent's Park in Inner

London was the premier locality for what is fast becoming a difficult bird to see in the London Area.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one on Aug 29th (DMn). Hainault Forest, a singing ♂ on May 1st (KB).
 Herts Smallford Lake, two on May 6th (SPe).
 Middx Hampstead Heath, one on Sept 9th (WEO).
 Surrey Nonsuch Park, a singing ♂ on Apr 14th (NW).
 In Lond Regent's Park, four singing ♂ on Apr 26th; singles on Aug 10th and 28th (ARD,DJ,DTM).

The histogram below shows the peak periods for the last five years for this colourful warbler. Surprisingly the penultimate week in April is the best time with 44% of all records even though more birds move through during the autumn. The autumn passage is spread over a longer period with the last three weeks in August having 34% of all records. All breeding records have been excluded from the graph.

Wood Warbler bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



1311 Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor; increasingly widespread in winter.

The first migrants started to appear from around mid-March, several localities that did not hold wintering birds reported singing males from the 13th onwards; numbers remained low until the third week of March but thereafter birds were encountered with increasing regularity. Reports during the breeding season seem to indicate that the slight increase noted over the last few years appears to be continuing, with only a few localities recording a slight decline in breeding numbers. Selected counts of breeding pairs or singing males, in parentheses, and a summary of Inner London records are given.

- Essex Beachet Wood, (4). Belhus Woods CP, (4). Berwick Ponds, (4). Carrolls Farm area, (5). Copped Hall, (4). Cornmill Meads, (12). Cranham Marsh, (4). Epping Long Green, (5). Fairmead, (5). Fishers Green, (4). Hainault

- Forest, (35). Hall Marsh, (21). Hornchurch CP, (8+). Ongar Park Wood, (8). Sewardstone, (5). Wanstead Park, (12).
- Herts Chess Valley, (3). Chorleywood Common, (3). Hilfield Park Res, (6). Maple Lodge NR, (5). Rye Meads SF, (12).
- Middx Bentley Priory, (7). Brent Res, (6). Bushy Park, (8-9). Horsenden Hill, (7). Hounslow Heath, (6).
- Bucks Black Park, (6).
- Kent Footh Cray Woods, (9). Lesnes Abbey Wood, (3). Littlebrook Lake area, (10). Maryon Wilson Park, (2-3). Ruxley GP (2). Woolwich Common, (4).
- Surrey Arbrook Common, (7). Ashtead Common, (6). Barwell Court Farm, (9). Beddington SF, (9). Claremont Lake, (4). Elmbridge Leisure Centre, (3). Holmethorpe SP, (3). Limpsfield Chart, (11). Molesey Heath, (4). Park Farm, Chessington, (5). Trevereux/Swanesland, (6).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace Gardens, a singing male on May 6th. Grand Union Canal, Westbourne Grove, four on Sept 13th. Holland Park, a singing male on Apr 10th and May 10th and 20th. Hyde Park, one on May 15th, two on Sept 11th. Paddington Green, reported on 15 dates between Aug 20th and Sept 25th, all singles except two on Sept 9th, Sept 18th and 19th. Primrose Hill, six on Sept 27th. Regent's Park, five on Mar 14th, 20 on Sept 24th, 12 on Oct 4th, two on Nov 8th and 10th. R. Thames, Wandsworth, six on Sept 19th, three on Oct 2nd and 4th. Regent's Canal, St Johns Wood, four on Sept 6th. St James's Park, one singing on Mar 16th and 17th, one singing on Sept 11th, one on Nov 3rd. Surrey Docks, two on Feb 1st. Victoria Park, three on Sept 17th.

Autumn passage was noticeable from about the first week of August and peaked around the second week of September; Wraysbury GP enjoyed the highest counts including 25 on Aug 19th, 50 on Aug 26th and an impressive 400 on Sept 9th, 69 of which were trapped and ringed. Elsewhere good counts came from Sevenoaks WR, 25 on Sept 4th; Rye Meads SF, 40 on Sept 9th and South Norwood Lake, 30 on Sept 10th. Smaller numbers were reported during October and most passage birds had gone by the 20th with no locality recording more than two after the 25th.

The large numbers reported in the first-winter period of 1999 were not repeated this year. The best counts in January were eight each at Rye Meads SF on the 3rd and Tilehouse North Lake on the 27th, whilst in February no locality recorded more than three. The highest counts for the last two months of the year both came from Rye Meads SF with up to ten in November and 15 in mid December. The table below shows the minimum number of birds reported from each sector during the winter months.

	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Herts</i>	<i>Middx</i>	<i>Bucks</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Surrey</i>	<i>Inner London</i>	<i>Total</i>
Jan	3	16	12	11	8	14	0	64
Feb	4	7	5	1	3	3	2	25
Nov	4	14	24	7	2	7	3	61
Dec	7	24	10	6	4	19	0	70

Two or three birds showing characteristics of *abientinus* were present on Hampstead Heath in October (WEO). A bird showing characteristics of the Siberian race *tristis* was at Brent Res from Nov 10th to Dec 27th (RB *et al*).



1312 Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Sevenoaks WR on Mar 26th with six more being reported during March; there was a small influx on Apr 8th and birds were numerous by the 14th. Good counts during spring passage included 13 at Regent's Park on Apr 17th and 40 at Wraysbury GP on Apr 29th, 24 of these were trapped and 21 proved to be retraps from previous years, a quite remarkable figure. Autumn passage was under way by the first week of August and good counts included 30 at Wraysbury GP on Aug 5th, 18 at Regent's Park on Aug 24th and 15 at Hampstead Heath on Aug 29th. Most birds had gone by the third week of September with the last at Wraysbury GP on Sept 30th. A bird showing characteristics of *acredula* was at Hampstead Heath on Sept 9th (WEO).

The decline in breeding numbers noted in recent years still continues in some areas, notably Belhus Woods CP and Berwick Ponds, down 80%; Rye Meads SF, down 30%, and Limpsfield Chart, down 20%; other breeding strongholds such as Hainault Forest and Hornchurch CP report no significant change and marginal localities that hold smaller numbers, one to three pairs, seem largely unaffected. Selected counts of breeding pairs or singing males in parentheses where applicable, and a summary of Inner London records are given.

Essex Belhus Woods CP, (3), 12-14 in 1999. Berwick Ponds, (2), 12-14 in 1999. Carrolls Farm area, (3). Dagenham Chase, (12). Epping Long Green, (6).

- Essex FB, (6). Fishers Green, (5). Hainault Forest, (35), no change. Hornchurch CP, (37), 35-40 in 1999. Sewardstone, (5). Wanstead Park (5).
- Herts Bowyers GP, (16). Chorleywood Common, (3). Hilfield Park Res, (3+). Rye Meads SF, (11), 17 in 1999. Smallford GP, (2-3). Stocker's Lake, (3).
- Middx Bentley Priory, (12), 18 in 1999. Brent Res, (6). Bushy Park, (1-2), four in 1999. Gunnersbury Triangle NR, one pair bred, first for over 12 years. Horsenden Hill, (3). Hounslow Heath, (7).
- Bucks Black Park, (6).
- Kent Littlebrook Lake, (15). Sevenoaks WR, (5). Thamesmead, (2), 14 in 1999. Woolwich Common, (3).
- Surrey Ashted Common, (19) 17 in 1999. Barwell Court Farm, (4), one in 1999. Island Barn Res, (3). Limpsfield Chart, (16), 20 in 1999. Wimbledon Common, (6).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace Gardens, two singing on Apr 14th. Hyde Park, one singing on Apr 8th. Kensington Gardens, a juvenile on Sept 11th. Primrose Hill, two singing on Apr 17th. Regent's Canal, St Johns Wood, one on Apr 23rd. Regent's Park, highlights of spring and autumn passage included 11 on Apr 14th, 13 on Apr 17th, ten on Aug 11th, 18 on Aug 24th, and six on Sept 3rd. Victoria Park, two on Apr 14th.

1314 Goldcrest***Regulus regulus***

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 131 pairs were reported during the breeding season, well down on last year but no records came from Broxbourne Woods where around 30 pairs bred in 1999 and the only comments from Black Park, another good locality, was that singing males were present in very good numbers and that the population remains strong. For the sixth successive year breeding was reported from Inner London, with four pairs at three localities. This species is desperately under-recorded in Middx, Bucks (except for Black Park) and Kent; observers are urged to submit all records for these sectors so that a clearer distribution picture can be obtained.

Very few good counts were reported during the autumn, 45 at West Ewell on Oct 22nd was the best followed by 40 at Rye Meads SF on Oct 21st and 30 at Regent's Park, Epsom Common and Wraysbury GP on Sept 12th, Sept 17th and Oct 14th respectively.

Breeding season records (number of pairs/singing males in parentheses), peak counts and a summary of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall (4). Epping, Station Hill (1). Hainault Forest (2+). Highams Park (1). Hornchurch CP (3), 15 on Nov 25th. Long Running, Epping Forest (1). Lords Wood (1). Marks Hall Arboretum (2+). Ongar Park Wood (5). Raphaels Park, Romford (1). South Hornchurch (1). South Park, Ilford (2). Valentines Park (4).

- Herts Bricket Wood area (15+). Chorleywood Common (5). Garston area (9+). Rye Meads SF, 40 on Oct 21st. Verulamium Lake, 15 on Oct 18th. Wall Hall (3). Watford Town Hall (1).
- Middx Bushy Park (c3), 15+ on Nov 20th. Grovelands Park (1). Horsenden Hill, 28 on Sept 30th, 18 on Oct 29th. Trent Park (2).
- Bucks Black Park, good numbers of singing males on Apr 27th and May 4th.
- Kent Bexley Wood (1). Charlton (1). Charlton Cemetery (2). Dartford Heath, 15 on Jan 7th. Greenwich Park (1). Gumping Common (1).
- Surrey Addington Hills, 20 on Feb 17th, 22 on Nov 17th, 27 on Dec 14th. Arbrook Common (1). Barnes Common, 21 on Jan 19th. Barwell Court Farm (2). Epsom Common, 30 on Sept 17th. Farthing Down (3). Kew Gardens (1). Limpsfield Chart (5), 29 in October. Morden Hall Park (2), 15 on Nov 15th. Park Farm, Chessington (1). Purley Beeches (1). R, Hogsmill, West Ewell, 45 on Oct 22nd, 27 on Nov 6th. Sanderstead (6+). South Croydon (4). South Norwood Lake (2). Titsey Park (3). Wimbledon Common (5), 25 on Oct 22nd and Nov 12th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace Gardens (1). Holland Park (2). Hyde Park (1). Kensington Gardens, 16 on Nov 4th. Regent's Park, 30+ on Sept 12th, 20+ on Sept 13th and 23rd.

1315 Firecrest***Regulus ignicapilla***

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

At least two pairs definitely bred, raising three young, and up to another five pairs were present during the breeding season. In the first winter period, January-February a total of 12 birds were reported from ten localities and during the second winter period 14 were reported from 12 localities. Passage was fairly quiet with only six noted in the spring and five in autumn.

- Essex East Ham NR, one from Jan 12th to 15th, two on Jan 16th (PD). Woodford, ♂♀ on Jan 31st, one on Oct 28th (KM). Yardley Hill, Chingford, ♂♀ on May 27th and 29th (AM). Site A, ♂♀ including a singing ♂ was present between Mar 23rd and June 19th, singing ♂♂ on Apr 21st and May 10th at least (mo).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 9th and 16th (RMC, BR). Hatfield, one on Dec 17th (JWm). Site B a juvenile on June 12th, an adult and juvenile on June 19th (RSr). Site C, one pair raised three young (AM, GJW).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Nov 10th, 19th and 24th (DGH,CL). Brent Res, one from Jan 2nd to 8th (EW *et al*), one from Nov 26th to Dec 26th (ASMS *et al*). Coppetts Wood, a singing ♂ on Mar 8th (AC). Enfield, one on Nov 25th (ADW). Grovelands Park, one on Jan 5th, two on Jan 11th, one on Jan 20th, 22nd, 27th and 30th (RMC,BE). Perivale Wood, one on Feb 12th (AJC). The Causeway NR, ♀ ringed on Jan 2nd and retrapped on Jan 16th, ♂ ringed on Feb 20th (DGH). Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, one on Dec 20th (RMC).
- Kent Maryon Wilson Park, one on Dec 12th (DTM).

- Surrey Beaulieu Heights Wood, one on Jan 1st, ♂ in March, ♂♂ on Mar 19th and Apr 6th, two on Nov 4th, one on Nov 12th and 18th (JF). Beddington SF, one on Sept 6th, Oct 31st and Nov 12th (BBR). Bookham Common, one on Apr 23rd (GE,PE). Chelsham, one on Sept 12th (BJT). Chepstow Rise, Croydon, one on Oct 4th (RSPBCG). Kenley, ♂ on Nov 7th and ♀ on Dec 27th (RSPBCG). Park Hill Park, Croydon, one on Nov 5th (JP). Pleasant Grove, Shirley, two in late October and early November (RSPBCG). Shirley Church Road, Croydon, one on Nov 4th and 5th (RSPBCG). The Oaks Park, Carshalton, ♂ on Feb 13th (JA). Thorpe Water Park, one on Jan 2nd (RM). Wandsworth Common, one on Dec 5th (PW).
- In Lond Bunhill Fields, two on May 8th (HV). Victoria Park, one on Dec 3rd (DH).

1335 Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Always a welcome sight on a balmy summer day, or on migration in spring or autumn, the perky Spotted Flycatcher is stuck in a steep decline as a breeding bird. Nationally, the slump was first detected during the 1960s, but in our Area it has really hit home during the past 15 years or so. The late 1980s boasted three-figure counts of breeding pairs in London; 1990, however, saw a drop to 68, and from then on the story reads as follows:

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Pairs	78	96	79	57	38	41	32	26-28	38	23

In Inner London, with no nesting reported in 2000, the Spotted Flycatcher is possibly extinct as a breeding bird, and Middlesex may not be far behind.

Migrant birds are far more widespread. This year, the first one arrived extremely early, at Fairlop Lakes CP (Essex) on Apr 22nd, with the same or another there on Apr 28th; the next were singles at several sites on May 7th, then a sparse spring passage lasted well into June. By early August, the return passage was underway, with 12 at Greenwich Park (Kent) on Aug 26th the highest count. Records were quite widely scattered during September, but the only October reports were of singles at East India Dock Basin (Middx) on 1st and the last of the year on 4th at Trent Park (Middx).

All breeding reports are given below (pairs/territories in brackets), plus records of migrants in Inner London; in the latter sector, Regent's Park records are summarised.

- Essex Connaught Water, (1). Hainault Forest, (2+). Magdalen Lever, (1). Ongar Park Wood, (2). Warren Pond, Chingford(2).
- Herts Amwell GP, (1). Brickendonbury, (2). Bricket Wood/Common, (1). Cheshunt Park, (1). Wall Hall, (1).
- Middx Bushy Park, "possibly two nests". Trent Park, (1+).

- Bucks Chalfont Park, (1).
 Kent Bessels Green, one (1). Greenwich Park, (1), probably just outside the park. Oxleas Wood, (1). R. Shuttle, (1).
 Surrey Park Farm, Chessington, (1). Richmond Park, (2). Titsey, (1), reared two broods.
 In Lond Holland Park, one on May 13th. Kensington Gardens, one on May 17th. Limehouse, one on June 27th. Primrose Hill, one on Sept 27th. Regent's Park: singles on May 18th and 22nd, then recorded on seven dates in August and eight dates in September; seven on Aug 29th was the maximum and three on Sept 25th the last. Victoria Park, Hackney, two on June 20th.

1349 Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

A total of four birds in spring and about 18 in autumn represents a close match for the past two years, but is down on the average for the 1990s of five in spring and 31 in autumn. During that decade, autumn totals varied hugely, between nine in 1993 and about 92 in 1997. However, even in lean years, gardens and inner-city parks turn up a good share of the records of this little beauty and at such sites it is well worth looking (and listening) out for, especially in late August and early September. All records are given below and refer to single birds unless otherwise stated.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, Aug 23rd (KB,PSt). Romford, Aug 31st (KB). Sewardstone, Aug 26th (AM,MSd). West Ham Park, Sept 9th (SRH).
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, first-year ♂ from Apr 11th to 16th, ringed on 13th (PMs).
 Middx Bushy Park, ♂ on Apr 21st (PGg) and 29th (DHy). Middx Filter Beds, Sept 2nd (GJ). Ruislip Common, Sept 4th (RNHS).
 Kent Littlebrook Lake, ♂ on Apr 17th (BEW).
 Surrey Dulwich, Sept 3rd (PBr). Moorhouse, Sept 14th (PJO). Morden Hall Park, three on Aug 25th and singles on Aug 26th, Sept 2nd to 4th and 8th (MSR).
 In Lond Regents Park, two on Aug 23rd and 24th, then singles on Aug 25th and Sept 3rd, 10th and 14th (ARD,DJ).

1437 Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
 Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

Records of more than 40 birds, and of more than one breeding pair, are given (pairs/territories in parentheses), and all Inner London records are listed or summarised for regular sites.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, (2). Cranham Marsh, (3). Epping Long Green, (2). Greenway, (2). Hainault Forest, (50). Highams Park, (3). Hornchurch CP, (7+). Ongar Park Wood, (6). Rainham Marsh, (3+). Sewardstone, (3). South Park, Ilford, (2). Valentines Park, (2).
 Herts Aldenham Res, 55 on Dec 5th. Amwell GP, 58 on Sept 29th. Cheshunt GP, 45 on Sept 26th. Rye Meads SF, (13).

- Middx Brent Res, (3), maximum 46 on Aug 20th. Hampstead Heath, up to 40 in September. Hounslow Heath, (6). Trent Park, (2).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 50 on Jan 15th and Oct 14th.
- Kent Fooks Cray Meadows, (5). Greenwich Park, (2+). Littlebrook Lake, (4+) in CBC. Lullingstone Lake/Park, (2). Maryon Wilson Park, (5). Ruxley GP, (4). Woolwich Common, (2).
- Surrey Arbrook Common, (3) in CBC. Barnes Common, 45 on Jan 19th. Barwell Court Farm, (3) in CBC. Cannon Hill Common, (3). Epsom Common, 50 on Sept 17th. Morden Hall Park, 40+ on Jan 1st New Malden, 50+ on Aug 18th. Park Farm, Chessington, (7) in CBC. Wimbledon Common, 50 on June 3rd, July 1st and Oct 7th.
- In Lond Broadley St Gardens, four on Feb 4th. Buckingham Palace, (1). Greville Place, NW6, 10+ on Sept 3rd. Holland Park, (3). Hyde Park, (2) in CBC plot (2-3 in 1999); 21 on Nov 15th. Kensington Gardens, 61 on Nov 4th. Little Venice, 20 on Oct 2nd. Paddington Green, W2, (1), maximum 12 on June 26th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, (2-3), maximum 30 on May 24th. Regent's Park, nest-building reported on Feb 22nd; 40 on Aug 8th and 9th. St James's Park, (1). Victoria Park, Hackney, 15 on Sept 17th.

1440 Marsh Tit***Parus palustris***

Status: scarce localised breeding resident.

Reports of this seriously decreasing species were widely scattered this year, but breeding records were fewer than ever before: only 14 pairs or singing males were located. In previous years, the Surrey sector has been something of a stronghold, but in 2000 the only pairs reported there were four at Bookham Common. Recent *London Bird Reports* have suggested that more Marsh Tits ought to come to light in suitable habitat in the Kent sector; nevertheless, this year Sevenoaks WR was the only Kentish site to report the species. A solitary Middlesex breeding success was perhaps the single cause for optimism. All records are given or summarised below; observers are urged to search for and report this species.

- Essex Connaught Water, one on Apr 19th and a family party of five on June 17th. Copped Hall, one territory. Jacks Hill, Epping Forest, one heard on June 26th. Grimston Oak, Epping Forest, one singing male on Mar 4th. Hainault Forest, 2-3 pairs. Sewardstone, singles on Feb 6th and Mar 12th.
- Herts Amwell GP, two on Jan 16th, then singles on seven dates from March to August. Brookmans Park, three on Feb 20th. Broxbourne Woods, two on Feb 8th and Nov 28th, with singles calling on May 6th and July 3rd. Ermine Street, Martins Green, two calling on July 27th. North Mymms Park, one on Nov 20th. Northaw Great Wood, two pairs and two additional singing males on Mar 21st, with nine birds in the area on Nov 28th. Panshanger Park, singles on June 3rd and 10th. Rye Meads SF, one from Aug 28th until early September.

- Middx Bushy Park, one on Jan 26th. Fir & Pond Woods, one on May 28th. Forty Hall, a pair bred; the observer's first record of a pair in the Enfield area since 1987. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, one on Feb 6th, then two on Nov 10th and 17th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, singles on six dates from August to December with two on Dec 17th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, present, but no territories ascribed in CBC. Banstead Wood, one on July 28th. Bookham Common, four pairs. Chelsham, three on Dec 31st. Croydon, "present" in Linto Glade during January to March and July to December, and in Courtwood Lane during January to April. Moorhouse, one during January, October and November. Purley, "present" at Selcroft Road in February. Riddlesdown, South Croydon, one on Mar 26th. Sanderstead, one on Nov 11th. Selsdon Wood, one heard on Aug 19th. South Croydon, one on Jan 16th. Titsey, two during May to November. Woldingham, one on Nov 27th.

1442 Willow Tit***Parus montanus***

Status: very scarce and possibly now a former breeding resident.

In our Area, as well as in many parts of England, the Willow Tit is approaching extinction. There were seven scattered reports, of eight birds, during 2000; breeding was confirmed in 1999. All records are shown.

- Essex Curtismill Green, one on Aug 9th (PF,HV). Rainham Marsh, one on May 14th (HV,RW,IW).
- Herts Rye Meads SF, singles on Sept 1st and Dec 23rd (RMRG).
- Middx Fir & Pond Woods, a pair on June 6th (GJW).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Sept 17th (CS).
- Surrey Moorhouse, one on Aug 8th (PJO).

1461 Coal Tit***Parus ater***

Status: common breeding species.

Little significant information was reported concerning this widespread breeding bird, which clearly is under-recorded. Selected breeding (pairs/territories in parentheses) and other records, plus all breeding records for Inner London, are given.

- Essex Beachet Wood, (3+). Copped Hall, (2). Warren Wood, Epping Forest, (c10). Gernon Bushes, (4+). Hainault Forest, (15). Ongar Park Wood, (12) (20 in 1999). Warren Pond, Chingford, (10+).
- Herts Berrygrove Wood, (4+). Bricket Wood area, (10+) in an incomplete survey. Garston area, (10+).
- Middx Bushy Park, (1-2).
- Kent Greenwich Park, (1). Joyden's Wood, at least 20 on Jan 17th.

Surrey Arbrook Common, (2) in CBC (one in 1999). Lambeth Res, two on Apr 16th were the observer's first at this site since September 1997.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, (1). Holland Park, (1). Hyde Park, (1) in CBC plot (two in 1999). Primrose Hill, one singing on Mar 21st. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, (2). Regent's Park, three singing on Feb 15th.

1462 Blue Tit

Parus caeruleus

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Where comparisons were possible, breeding numbers of this nearly ubiquitous species showed decreases on previous years. Selected breeding (pairs/ territories in parentheses) and other records are given, together with all breeding reports from Inner London.

Essex Cornmill Meads, (10). Cranham Marsh, (11). Epping Long Green, (9). Essex Filter Beds, (10). Hainault Forest, (100). Highams Park, (26). Rainham Marsh, (12). Sewardstone, (9).

Herts Rye Meads SF, (13) pairs.

Kent Littlebrook Lake, (24+) in CBC.

Middx Bushy Park, (15) (25 in 1999). Horsenden Hill, nearly 100 ringed from nest boxes.

Surrey Arbrook Common, (18) in CBC (22 in 1999). Ashted Common, (26) (26 in 1999). Barnes Common, 132 on Jan 19th. Barwell Court Farm, (13) in CBC (19 in 1999, 23 in 1998). Beddington SF, (7), (16 in 1999). Cannon Hill Common, (15), (about 20 in 1999). Morden Hall Park, (15-18) (20 in 1999, 30 in 1998). Nower Wood, (45) (39 in 1999). Park Farm, Chessington, (23) in CBC (28 in 1999, 26 in 1998).

In Lond Buckingham Palace, (2). Holland Park, (37), mostly in nest boxes. Hyde Park, (12-14) in CBC plot (12-14 in 1999, 18 in 1998). Paddington Green, W2, (5+). Primrose Hill, bred. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, 21 on Feb 17th, bred. St James's Park, (4-5).

1464 Great Tit

Parus major

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Breeding census results were a mixed bag this year, with about as many downs as ups. Selected breeding (pairs/ territories in parentheses) and other records are given, together with all breeding reports from Inner London.

Essex Cornmill Meads, (11). Essex Filter Beds, (7). Hainault Forest, (65). Highams Park, (19). Rainham Marsh, (6). Sewardstone, (5).

Herts Chess Valley, (9). Chorleywood Common, (6). Rye Meads SF, (16).

Middx Bushy Park, (17) in survey area (17 in 1999). Horsenden Hill, about 20 ringed from nest boxes. Hounslow Heath, (8).

Kent Littlebrook Lake, (11+) territories on CBC.

- Surrey Arbrook Common, (15) in CBC (17 in 1999). Barnes Common, 52 on Jan 19th. Barwell Court Farm, (16) in CBC (12 in 1999). Beddington SF, (12) (17 in 1999). Cannon Hill Common, (9) (8 in 1999). Morden Hall Park, (20-25), "suggestion of further decline". Oxted, an aberrant ♂ seen on several dates in January showed slate grey mantle, scapulars, wing coverts and flight feathers, and pale peach underparts, with grey at the rear of the flanks. Park Farm, Chessington, (16) in CBC (17 in 1999 and 1998).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, (3). Holland Park, (9), mostly in nest boxes. Hyde Park, (12-14) in CBC plot (9-10 in 1999, 12 in 1998). Paddington Green, W2, (2-3). St James's Park, (4).

1479 Nuthatch***Sitta europaea***

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding records given below with pairs/territories in parentheses

- Essex Epping Forest, (3). Hainault Forest, (2-3). Highams Park, (3).
- Herts Garston area, (3+). Post Wood, (2). Panshanger Park, (5). Otterspool, (1-2).
- Middx Trent Park, (4), has declined here. Ken Wood 'good numbers'. Grovelands Park, (4-5).
- Kent Bexley Wood, (2+). Greenwich Park, (2), may be declining. Oxleas Wood, (1+).
- Surrey Addington Hills, up to four birds throughout the year. Barwell Court Farm, (2) on CBC plot.
- In Lond Hyde Park, none found on CBC plot (1 in 1999). Kensington Gardens, (1).

1486 Treecreeper***Certhia familiaris***

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding records given below with pairs/territories in parentheses

- Essex Hainault Forest, (14+). Ongar Park Wood, (7) (9 in 1999). Epping Forest, (3+) a gross underestimate?. Connaught Water, (3).
- Herts Bricket Wood area, (13+). Garston area, (2+). Berrygrove Wood, (2).
- Middx Bedford Lakes CP, one in July and August was the first for 11 years. Bushy Park, (1). Trent Park, (1).
- Kent Breeding confirmed from only one site. Greenwich Park, (1).
- Surrey Arbrook Common, (3) on CBC plots. Morden Hall Park, (2) (same as last year). Nower Wood, (3) (same as 1999).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on Mar 3rd. Holland Park, a pair present for the first half of the year. Hyde Park, (1) on CBC plot (as with the last 2 years) plus another territory elsewhere. Regent's Park, (1).

**1508 Golden Oriole*****Oriolus oriolus***

Status: rare passage migrant, most often in May.

In Lond Regent's Park, one heard on May 26th (ARD).
 Kent Petts Wood, ♂ was seen on May 20th (MCe).

Two records this year is about average and both occurred during the peak time.

1515 Red-backed Shrike***Lanius collurio***

Status: rare passage migrant

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, juvenile from Oct 1st to 4th (IK *et al*)

This is the first record since 1998, when four birds were seen. In that year three were in the spring and one in the autumn. 17 birds were seen in the last ten years, 76% in the autumn and 24% in spring.

1520 Great Grey Shrike***Lanius excubitor***

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Middx Staines Moor, one on the morning of Apr 9th (RM,AVM *et al*).

Recorded for the fourth year in a row, but this was the first spring bird since 1992.

1539 Jay***Garrulus glandarius***

Status: common breeding resident, with numbers boosted by immigrants in autumn and winter.

An autumn influx was noted at only a handful of sites. Notable breeding records with pairs/territories in parentheses, counts above ten and selected Inner London records are given.

- Essex Epping Forest, Oak Hill area, (4). Greenway, (2). Highams Park, (2). Hornchurch CP, (3). Knighton Wood, (2). Larks Wood, (3). Long Running, Epping Forest, (2). Ongar Park Wood, (3). Sewardstone, (2). Valentines Park, (2).
- Herts Chorleywood Common, four (1). Garston area, (5-6). Rye Meads SF, (1).
- Middx Brent Res, ten on Apr 9th. Bushy Park, up to 22 on Sept 28th and c18 on Oct 2nd. Gunnersbury Triangle NR, (1-2). Hounslow Heath, (2).
- Kent Bexley Wood, 15+ in February and March. Foots Cray Woods, 12+ on Mar 26th. Greenwich Park, (2). Maryon Wilson Park, (2-3). Sevenoaks WR, 13 on Sept 13th.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, (3) on CBC plot (2 in 1999 and 3 in 1998). Morden Hall Park, 15 on Apr 21st, (4). Park Farm, Chessington, (6) on CBC plot (four in 1999). Walton Res, 12 on Sept 23rd.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one probable territory on May 15th. Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, (1). Guy's Hospital, (1). Hyde Park, (3) on CBC plot (2 in 1999, 3 in 1998). Kensington Gardens, ten on Nov 4th. Paddington Green W2, four on Sept 13th. Regent's Park, four on Mar 22nd. Victoria Park, Hackney, four on Oct 14th.

1549 Magpie***Pica pica***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

A very successful bird adept at exploiting niches even in the urban centre. High breeding counts, with pairs/territories in parentheses, CBC counts, site maxima over 20 and Inner London counts are given below.

- Essex Chingford, Oak Hill E4, (3). Cranham Marsh, (7+). Highams Park, (5). Rainham Marsh, (12). Sewardstone, (5).
- Herts Cheshunt GP, c40 at dusk on Nov 3rd. Rye Meads SF, (7), max count 20 in January/February.
- Middx Alexandra Park, 52 at roost on Jan 25th. Crouch End Recreation Ground, 30+ on Sept 26th. Staines Moor, 30 on Mar 7th and Nov 1st.
- Kent Darenth CP, 33 on Nov 28th. Darenth Valley Walk, 20 on Jan 27th and Mar 10th. Dartford Heath, 25 on Jan 7th. Dartford Marsh, max 51 on Nov 12th.
- Surrey Apps Court Farm GP, 25 on Jan 21st. Banstead Heath, c30 roosting on Jan 20th. Barnes Common, 31 on Jan 19th. Barwell Court Farm, (5) on CBC plot (7 in 1999). Beddington SF, 24 on Dec 5th. Cannon Hill Common, 40 on Mar 13th. Croydon, c20 on Feb 14th. Epsom Common, 115 roosting in birches on Feb 13th. Ewell, 50+ roosting on Dec 2nd. Farthing Downs, c250 at roost on Dec 27th. Lloyd Park (Croydon), 35 on June 20th. Morden Hall Park, 35 on Jan 1st. Park Farm, Chessington, (13) on CBC plot (11 in 1999). Wimbledon Common, 24 on Apr 24th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, (2). Elsworthy Road NW3, ten on Dec 27th. Limehouse, seven on Jan 31st and May 31st. Primrose Hill, 13 on Mar 22nd. Victoria Park, Hackney, 25 on Feb 20th and Dec 3rd.

1560 Jackdaw***Corvus monedula***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in urban areas.

Increased numbers were present in the winter months with seven sites (compared to four in 1999) holding at least 1000 birds. All Inner London records, breeding records with pairs/territories in parentheses and notable counts are given.

- Essex Hainault Forest, (16-18). Holyfield Hall Farm, 3,000 on Jan 30th. Rainham Marsh, (2).
- Herts Amwell GP, 100 on Oct 28th. Beech Farm GP, 2,000 in mixed corvid roost on Nov 10th. Chess Valley, 32 on Mar 20th. Rye Meads SF, 170 on Dec 9th. St. Albans, (5).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, c1,200 to roost on Nov 12th. Bentley Priory, a small colony. Bushy Park, 55 on Nov 3rd. Hampstead Heath, small colony of about five pairs in Kenwood on Apr 1st; passage of 34 on Oct 20th. Hampton, c500 flying NW to roost on Dec 30th. Hampton Court Park, 115 on Dec 18th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, 40 on Dec 12th. Colnbrook, 50 on Aug 28th. Good populations, without numbers provided, reported at Denham, Langley Park and Mansfield Farm (Iver Heath).
- Kent Greenwich Park, pairs investigated nest holes, but successful breeding not confirmed. Sevenoaks WR, 70 on June 28th.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, (5) on CBC plot (8 in 1999, 5 in 1998). Beddington SF, 155 on Nov 20th; a bird with a very pale nape resembling the eastern race *C.m.soemmerrungii* was seen on a couple of occasions in April. Epsom Common, 350 flew over to roost in Horton CP on Feb 13th. Hersham GP, max 2,010 in roost on Jan 28th, pair bred with three juveniles seen. Hersham GP, 350 on Dec 20th. Horton CP, 1,000 at roost on Jan 19th. Motspur Park, 1,000 on Jan 30th. Oxted, (8) in roof of old house. Oxted, Hurst Green, roost of 1,450 on Aug 19th. Park Farm, Chessington, (9) on CBC plot (2 in 1999 and 1998). Riddlesdown, 200 on Oct 30th.
- In Lond Paddington Green W2, one N on Oct 30th. Regent's Park, three on Feb 26th, seven on Mar 1st, singles on Mar 12th and 16th, May 7th and Aug 17th, three on Sept 15th and 19th, one on Sept 20th, two on Oct 9th, one on Oct 13th, five on Nov 1st and three on Nov 3rd.

1563 Rook***Corvus frugilegus***

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in urban areas.

All breeding records are given below. Number of nests in brackets. There were no Inner London records.

- Essex Clatterford End, (2), Curtismill Green, (15+). Epping, High Street (19). Harlow, Potter Street (14). High Laver, (21) near Bushes and (6) at church. Holyfield Hall Farm, 2,000 on Jan 30th. Magdalen Lever, two

colonies (41 and 31). Moreton, two colonies (10 and 21). Navestock Hall, (15+). North Weald, three rookeries (128 at Wintry Wood, 80 and 18 by church). Ongar (6). Passingford Bridge (15+). Shelly Roundabout (3). Thornwood Common (36). Weald Lodge (15).

- Herts Chiswell Green (7). Garston, 100 on Sept 20th. Hunton Bridge (11). Langleybury School, Watford, (25). Shenley, (47). Watford Tunnels, (31).
- Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 29th and May 1st; two flew W on Oct 8th and three on Oct 14th. Ten Acre Wood, (12); this is a new rookery.
- Bucks Denham Place (86). Long Coppice (40). Old Slade Lake (3), a new colony. Richings Park (11), 33 in 1999.
- Kent Bexley, ten flew N on Feb 13th. Dartford Marsh, five NW on Feb 13th and Dec 30th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Oct 25th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, maximum 25 on June 18th; no longer a rarity here as birds attracted to landfill. Bookham Common, (19). Brooklands, 25 on Jan 7th. Titsey Hill, (14). Titsey Park (53 and 8). Trevereux, 80 in late August/September and up to 70 in December.

1567 Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Status: abundant , breeding resident.

An extremely successful resident, breeding right into the city centre, where suitable large trees are available for nesting. Counts over 100 and some Inner London records are given.

- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, 500 on Jan 7th. Walthamstow Res, c470 at roost on Nov 5th.
- Herts Hertford Heath, 124 on field mown for silage on June 2nd and 150 on Nov 5th. Rye Meads SF, five pairs bred.
- Middx Alexandra Park, 118 on Dec 1st. Hampton Court Park, 150 on Dec 18th. Horsenden Hill, 240+ on Jan 30th. Lower Priory Farm, Stanmore, 300+ on Nov 17th.
- Bucks Kingcup Farm, 140 on Dec 20th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 170 on Jan 26th.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, 11 territories on CBC count (7 in 1999 and 1998). Beddington SF, 403 on Dec 6th, increasing here due to landfill. Esher SF, 400 on May 2nd. Hersham GP, 250 on Feb 19th. Horton CP, 350 on Jan 19th. Wimbledon Common, c100 at Large Meadow on Nov 11th.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, 142 on Nov 4th. Limehouse, 23 on Mar 31st. Paddington Green, 25+ on Jan 1st. Primrose Hill, 41 on Sept 27th. Regent's Park, 94 on Mar 2nd. R.Thames, Wandsworth, 260 on Oct 2nd. St James's Park, 46 on Feb 2nd. Victoria Park, Hackney, 124 on July 8th.

1582 Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recent BTO Common Bird Census indices revealed a marked decline in this species, though these annual censuses do not cover urban or suburban areas, where substantial proportions of the population breed.

One observer in the Herts sector noted a big decline at one site. Highest county counts and details of abnormally plumaged birds are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, two leucistic individuals on Nov 4th. East Ham, 20+ pairs breeding on Leigh Rd PF. King George V Res, c1,000 on Aug 1st. Rainham Marsh, 1,500 to 2,000 on Jan 22nd.
- Herts Brickendonbury, 60 on Feb 8th. Chorleywood Common, five on May 27th were the only individuals seen this year; recorder comments how in 1980s/early 1990s there would be many juveniles at this time.
- Middx Brent Res, 500 over on Oct 4th. Bushy Park, max 120 on Dec 30th. Hampstead Heath, 1,400 flew W on Oct 19th. Hampton Court Park, max 100 in paddocks on Feb 12th. Staines Moor, 200 on Feb 3rd and Nov 1st.
- Bucks Delaford Park, 450 on Mar 8th.
- Kent Blackheath, 1,000+ mostly juveniles on Aug 14th. Darenth Valley Walk, max 130 on Mar 10th. Dartford Marsh, max 220 on June 18th. Horton Kirby, max 120 on Apr 11th. Petts Wood, 150 on Sept 5th. Ruxley GP, one on Sept 14th was only individual seen by observer all year.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, c250 on June 24th. Barwell Court Farm, two territories on CBC plot (4 in 1999, 2 in 1998). Beddington SF, 951 on Nov 1st. Cannon Hill Common, seven territories (5 in 1999). Joseph Hood Rec Grnd, 250 on Aug 1st and 8th. Limpsfield Chart, 190 on Feb 1st. Morden Hall Park, 36 territories (30 in 1999, 60 in 1998), c300 over on Nov 4th. Oxted, observer noted minor reduction in local breeding birds, but noticeable fall in number of wintering birds visiting gardens. Park Farm, Chessington, five nests on CBC plot (3 in 1999, 5 in 1998). Peckham Rye Park, 100 on Sept 4th. Prince Georges PF, max 600 on Mar 14th. St Paul's School PF, max 104 on June 20th. Tolworth, 500 on Feb 5th. Walton Res, max 300 on June 28th.
- In Lond Hyde Park, partial albino juvenile on July 4th. Kensington Gardens, 62 on Nov 4th. Paddington Green W2, c5 pairs bred, 120 on Sept 22nd. Primrose Hill, c50 on May 5th to 8th. Regent's Park, 260 on Oct 23rd. Vauxhall Bridge, c50 at dusk on Feb 28th.

1591 House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Status: breeding resident, locally declining.

Local evidence of falling populations continue to be reported, with some sites now not recording this once abundant species at all, such as Crouch End, Holland Park and Hyde Park. Nationally the status of this species is regionally varied, with data from the BTO BBS survey showing significant increases in Scotland and particularly Wales, whilst declining in England with the south-east and London showing the steepest decline.

To give a complete insight into London performance of this species most records giving totals are used.

- Essex Waltham Abbey, small flock around the Abbey included one albino bird on Jan 1st.

- Herts Cheshunt, c50 roosting on Nov 3rd. Garston, 35 in observer's garden on Aug 13th. Stocker's Farm, 35 on Mar 9th and 30 on Sept 28th.
- Middx Bushy Park, very few birds seen through year with no young observed. Crouch End, none seen all year, formerly common. East Ferry Road, Isle of Dogs, peak count in garden showing sharp fall with 43 on Jan 14th and five on Dec 1st. Gunnersbury Triangle NR, occasional one or two, showed marked decline in 1999/2000. Hampton Court Park, a pair nesting near the palace on July 8th. Hounslow Heath, 40 coming to seed on Jan 30th. Staines Moor, up to 20 during February, March and November.
- Kent Bexley, max 31 on Nov 20th in garden at The Drive. Dartford Marsh, max 25 on May 12th. Greenwich Park, some pairs bred with young seen, apparently declining. Joyce Green Hospital, at least two pairs in breeding season. Ruxley GP, pair on June 9th and female on July 31st were the only records this year. Thames Barrier area, ten on Aug 18th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, max 50 on July 6th. Beddington SF, commonly noted throughout year. Limpsfield Chart, max ten on Oct 1st, observer commenting that this species is declining here and may go the way of the Tree Sparrow. Molesey, seen in garden in Palace Road every month of year up to 1998, sporadic in 1999 and only records in 2000 are one on Jan 6th, two on June 8th and one on Aug 10th. Morden Hall Park, max 12 on July 8th and 15th, no breeding this year. Oxted, observer comments species has declined in village compared to 1970s but now appears to be stable though very scarce in surrounding farmland. Within 200m radius of observer's house in Ellice Road, 6-7 pairs nested, juveniles first seen May 18th with 16 on June 30th. Park Farm, Chessington, 21 nests on CBC plot (9 nests in 1999 and 13 in 1998). Sanderstead, one pair bred in Briton Hill Rd, the first for some time. South Norwood Lake, max 30 on July 1st and 20+ juveniles in August. Wimbledon Common, eight juveniles seen at Windmill on June 1st.
- In Lond Broadley St Gardens, max 35 on Mar 9th, one pair probably bred. Camley Street Natural Park, c20 on Jan 17th. Canada Water SE16, five on Mar 30th. Holland Park, none present for first time since 1960s. Hyde Park, none recorded in CBC plot (8-10 in 1999, 11 in 1998). Kensington Gardens, six pairs nested with eight broods, four young seen to be taken by Sparrowhawks; eight on Nov 4th. Limehouse, max 28 on May 31st. Lisson Grove NW1, ten at roost on Dec 20th. Paddington Green, 2-3 pairs bred. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, c5 pairs bred. Regent's Park, 1-2 pairs. St Katherine's Dock, two males on June 24th, one carrying nest material. St George's Square SW1, two on Jan 27th. Victoria Park, Hackney, 32 on May 21st. Waterloo Bridge, four on June 24th. Westminster, two at Medway St on Jan 26th.

1598 Tree Sparrow***Passer montanus***

Status: scarce and local breeding resident, population probably stable.

The principal colony at Beddington now appears to be thriving with 51 territories compared to 38 in 1999 and the maximum count showing a

48% increase on the 1999 value. The Coursers Lane Fields site also showed a higher annual maximum. Sadly there were no Middlesex breeding records. All records are given, but summarised for key localities.

- Herts Beech Farm GP, monthly maxima: four in February, one in March and three in April. Coursers Lane Fields, monthly maxima: 40 in January, 15 in February, 35 in March, 30 in April, 75 in July and 30 in September. At least 20 broods were reared and a total of 42 young were ringed, one of these was controlled at Landguard (Suffolk) in September. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Apr 14th and 16th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Oct 22nd. Hampstead Heath, two over Parliament Hill on Mar 11th, first record in many years. Middlesex Filter Beds, one on Apr 28th and June 11th. Perry Oaks SF, four on Mar 25th.
- Bucks Old Slade Lake, three at sewage treatment works on Aug 14th, first in area for about three years.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, one on Dec 31st, observer notes it is first he has seen in square TQ16 for over 15 years. Beddington SF, max 133 on Sept 12th, 51 territories (38 in 1999), increased for second year running and now almost recovered to 1997 levels after a poor 1998 season. Beddlestead Valley, one on Jan 28th in sweetcorn cover crop. Hurst Green, one on Nov 9th. Old Coulsdon, singles seen on various dates March to May at Court Avenue. Oxted, apparently now extinct in Limpsfield/Oxted area.

1636 Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

In the early part of the year four sites held flocks of 100 or more at times, with the largest flock peaking at 300 at Rushett Farm, Surrey. Four different sites witnessed 100 or more birds in the autumn/winter period, with the highest total being at Borehamwood, Herts, which peaked at 150 in late September. Details of flocks of 50 or more, plus breeding records at regularly monitored sites are given below:

- Essex King George V Res, 55 on Oct 14th. Sewardstone, 100 on Jan 8th rising to 200 by Feb 18th. Numbers of breeding territories: Beachet Wood, (5); Cornmill Meadows, (24); Cranham Marsh, (3); Dagenham Chase, (3); Epping Long Green, (14); Essex Filter Beds, (2); Fishers Green, (9); Hainault Forest, (40+); Highams Park, (2); Ongar Park Wood, (31); Rainham Marsh, (3); Sewardstone, (13); Stubber OPC, (4); Walthamstow Res, 11; Wintry Wood, (2).
- Herts Borehamwood, 150 over on Sept 23rd and 50 present on Oct 22nd. Broxbourne Woods, 70 on Feb 20th. Chiswell Green, 100 in mid-February. Coursers Lane Fields, 50 on Jan 3rd. Hertford Heath, 68 on Jan 1st. Breeding records: Chess Valley, (7); Chorleywood Common, (8); Rye Meads SF, (28).

- Middx Bentley Priory, 100 on Feb 11th and Mar 4th. Broadwater Lake, 55 on Jan 18th. Trent Park, 50+ on Nov 18th. Breeding territories: Brent Res, (1-2); Bushy Park, (10-11); Horsenden Hill, (3); Hounslow Heath, (3).
- Bucks Black Park, 75 on Mar 14th.
- Kent Bexley Wood, 50 from mid-Jan to late Feb. Jubilee Park, 50 on Oct 12th. Breeding records: Greenwich Park, four juvs seen June 1st; Littlebrook Lake, 19 pairs; R. Shuttle, one pair in May.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 70 on Dec 31st. Barnes WWT, passage of 80 W on Oct 19th and 54 SW on Nov 5th. Beddington, 89 on Jan 24th. Limpsfield Chart, 120 on Dec 17th. Moorhouse, 120 on Dec 12th, "largest flock since 1996". Rushett Farm, 100 on Jan 14th increased to 300 by Feb 22nd. Breeding territories: Arbrook Common, (10). Barwell Court Farm, (19); Morden Hall Park, (1) first for c10 years; Oxted, (1-2). Park Farm, Chessington, (12); R. Thames, Molesey, (13).
- In Lond Camley Street, 10+ on Jan 17th. Limehouse, 18 on Dec 27th. Regents Park, 140 on Nov 3rd. One singing ♂ at Kensington Gardens on May 17th. Hyde Park has shown a decrease, to 2-3 pairs. Regent's Canal, St John's Wood, 1-2 territories.

1638 Brambling***Fringilla montifringilla***

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

In the early part of the year there were reports from 39 localities but double figure counts from only five of these. The highest count was of approximately 50 birds at Cornmill Meadows, Essex on Feb 1st and the last bird of the first winter period was at Oakwood, Middlesex on May 8th. The first returning birds appeared on Oct 14th in Surrey but birds were scarce this period with only 19 sites recording birds, and only three sites managing counts higher than three.

All double figure counts are provided below plus a summary of other records.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, 50 on Feb 1st. Sewardstone, up to eight from the beginning of the year to Mar 3rd. Chingford, three on Feb 9th. The only autumn records were singles at Cornmill Meadows and Fishers Green.
- Herts Coursers Lane Fields, up to six from Jan 3rd to Mar 5th. Maple Lodge NR, 20 on Jan 9th. St. Alban's, ten in a garden on Feb 29th. One to three from Broxbourne Woods, Chiswell Green, Hertford, North Mymms Park and Watford.
- Middx Coppetts Wood, 12 flew SW on Dec 16th. One to three short stayers at Alexandra Park, Bentley Priory, Brent Res, Hampstead Heath, Ickenham, Oakwood, Stanmore and Trent Park.
- Bucks Black Park, 12 on Mar 14th. Kingcup Farm, five on Jan 5th. Langley Park, ten on Dec 13th. One to three at Broadwater Lake, Iver Heath, Tilehouse Lakes, and Wraysbury.

- Kent Singles from Mary Wilson Park, Dec 12th; Petts Wood, Jan 26th; and Ruxley GP, Nov 18th were the only records.
- Surrey Bookham, a flock frequenting a garden throughout February subsequently peaked at 31 birds on Mar 4th. The first returning birds were 12 at Morden Hall Park and two at South Norwood Lake on Oct 14th. Up to six at Banstead and Limpsfield Chart during late March. 1-4 birds from 15 other sites.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, two on Nov 4th. Regent's Park, two on Nov 3rd and three on Nov 7th.

1649 Greenfinch***Carduelis chloris***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

As in 1999 only two sites recorded flocks of 100 during the year. Counts of 50 or more and breeding survey results (1999 in brackets) are given below:

- Essex Copped Hall, 100 on Oct 12th. Fishers Green, 60 came in to roost on Dec 31st. Hainault Forest, 12-15 territories. Hooks Marsh, 70 in pre-roost flock on Feb 22nd.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, 100 on Feb 12th and ten singing males (19).
- Middx Enfield Town, up to 71 roosting in rhododendrons in Church Street in November to December. Hampton Court Park, c60 from Nov 7th and c80 on Dec 18th.
- Bucks Old Slade Lake, ten including five singing ♂ was the highest sector count, on Mar 22nd.
- Kent Jubilee Park, 15-20 on Oct 12th was the highest sector count. Littlebrook Lake, 6+ territories on CBC plot area.
- Surrey Claremont Lake, 45 roosted on Nov 22nd. Hogsmill SF, 50 on Dec 26th. Limpsfield Chart, pre-roost counts peaked at 25 in first winter period and 15 in second winter period, down from 50-80 in recent years. Breeding records indicated stability except at Park Farm, Chessington, up from three to six CBC territories, and Wimbledon Common, where eight singing males in June was double the 1999 total.
- In Lond Holland Park, one pair bred. Hyde Park, 3-4 territories, no change from 1999. Paddington Green, two territories, one pair bred. Primrose Hill, two pairs bred. Regent's Park, 25 on Nov 7th was the highest site count. Westminster, one pair suspected to have bred. Singing males were also recorded from a number of other sites.

1653 Goldfinch***Carduelis carduelis***

Status: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

A good year, with 20 sites holding flocks of 50+ during the year and four sites with flocks in excess of 100+. The biggest count, by far, was 300 at Bushey, Herts on Jan 28th. Groups of 50 or more, plus selected other site maxima (and number of breeding pairs in brackets) are given below:

- Essex Copped Hall, 100 on Feb 1st. Dagenham Chase, 56 on Oct 20th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 62 on Apr 16th. Hornchurch CP, 42 on Oct 12th. Rainham Marsh (20), 180 on Sept 5th. Waltham Abbey Woods, 50 on Apr 7th. Walthamstow Res, 92 on Nov 3rd.
- Herts Amwell GP, 35 on Sept 16th. Bushey, 300 on Jan 28th. Hertford Heath, 40 on Apr 30th. Stanstead Abbots GP, 70 on Dec 23rd.
- Middx Brent Res, 35 on Sept 2nd. Hampton Court Park, 80 on Jan 17th and c40 on Mar 30th. Springwell Landfill, 50 on Sept 24th and 30th. Wormwood Scubs, 50+ on Aug 26th.
- Bucks Black Park, 50 on Mar 18th. Denham Mount, 40 on Mar 10th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 80+ on Nov 18th. Greenwich Park, 30+ on Oct 8th. Sevenoaks Reserve, 70 on Jan 29th and Dec 6th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, 44 on Aug 10th and 60 on Oct 4th. Beddington SF, 86 on Oct 31st. Holmethorpe SP, 50+ on Aug 23rd. Island Barn Res, 50 on Aug 3rd. Surbiton, 50-60 feeding on niger and sunflower seed in Alexandra Drive from early January to late March.
- In Lond Camley Street, nine on Jan 17th. Paddington Green (1), five on Dec 19th. Limehouse, five on Dec 27th. Regent's Park, 13 on Nov 7th. Victoria Park, Hackney, 12 on Oct 14th.

1654 Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Status: common winter visitor, passage migrant and increasingly regular in summer; potential breeding species.

Most large flocks were encountered in the first winter period, including flocks of around 500 birds in Kent and Surrey. Details of all flocks of 50 or more, plus some smaller counts from selected other sites, are provided below. There were no confirmed breeding records.

- Essex Fishers Green, 70+ on Nov 21st. R. Lee, Waltham Abbey, 50 on Jan 2nd. Turnford Marsh GP, 50 on Mar 4th.
- Herts Amwell GP, the first winter period flock peaked at around 100 on Feb 10th and the second winter period flock at around 50 on Dec 29th. Cheshunt (70 Acres) GP, up to 250 in late Jan. Chiswell Green, 100 on Mar 4th. Maple Lodge NR, 100 on Jan 26th. Stocker's Lake, 165 on Jan 2nd reducing to 30 by 18th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, flock present through Jan peaked at 80+ on 16th. Bushy Park, 100+ throughout Jan, up to 70 in second winter period. Frays Meadow, c75 on Jan 14th. Grovelands Park, 250 on Jan 12th. Hampstead Heath, a flock of 30+ up until early March. Harefield Place GP, 120 on Jan 26th. Stanmore, 40+ during February.
- Bucks Black Park, up to 150 present in mid-March, with 60 on Dec 26th. Denham Lock, eight flocks comprising 315 birds in total on Jan 29th. Ranston Covert (Tilehouse South Lake), 190 on Jan 12th and 50 on Nov 9th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, 100 on Jan 3rd and 50 on Nov 28th were the two winter period peaks. Darenth Valley Walk, 40 on Jan 27th. Sevenoaks WR, 500 present at end Jan, reducing to 200 by Feb 21st then 30 by Mar 4th.

- Surrey Beaulieu Heights Wood, 60+ on Feb 3rd. Chertsey Meads, 50 on Feb 4th. Esher Common, approx 500 spread over wide area on Mar 22nd. Painshill Park, Cobham, 40 on Jan 4th. Weylands Farm, Hersham, 40 on Feb 6th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, single figure counts on several dates and 60 on Oct 5th.

1660 Linnet***Carduelis cannabina***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

During the first winter period four flocks of 100 or more were reported, in line with previous years, with the highest count being 200 on farmland at Sewardstone. There were six flocks of 100 or more in the second winter period, the highest by far being approximately 500 birds in a huge single flock at Rainham Marsh on Dec 7th. Counts of 50 or more, breeding records (pairs/territories in brackets), and all Inner London records are given below:

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 120 on Nov 9th. Copped Hall, 50 on Dec 26th. Hainault Forest, (12). King George V Res, 53 on Oct 14th. Rainham Marsh, (25+), 500 on Dec 7th. Sewardstone, c150 present throughout January to March on farmland stubble, peaking at 200 on Feb 24th.
- Herts Coursers Lane Fields, 130 on Oct 1st. Lynster's Farm, 150 on Oct 24th. Rye Meads SF, (3), down from 10 in 1999. Salisbury Hall Farm, 50 on Nov 18th.
- Middx Parkside Farm/Res, 30+ from early September to end October, peaking at 100+ on Sept 28th. Hounslow Heath, (8), 50 on Sept 19th. Staines Moor, 50 on Oct 6th. Vicarage Farm, 50+ on Oct 3rd and 8th.
- Bucks Warren Farm, 16 on Aug 14th was the highest sector count.
- Kent Crossness, 60 on Apr 25th. Dartford Marsh, 50 on Sept 10th. Thames Barrier, 50 on Sept 27th. Tripcock Point, Thamesmead, 120 on Mar 4th.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, (3) on CBC plot (up from one). Beddington SF, 65 on Nov 1st. Chelsham, 300 in game cover crop on Dec 31st. Epsom Common, 68 on Feb 13th. Fetcham, 100 on Jan 12th. Hersham GP, up to 75 in Jan and 50 on Oct 14th. Moorhouse, 50 on Dec 12th was the largest flock since 1993. Park Farm, Chessington, 100 on Mar 15th. Rushett Farm, 70 on Feb 22nd. South Norwood Lake, 50 on Oct 1st.
- In Lond Green Park, one over on June 20th. Primrose Hill, singles on Mar 21st and 22nd, Apr 10th and May 8th. Regent's Park, singles on Feb 11th, Oct 8th and Oct 19th, with up to five in April. Victoria Park, Hackney, 35 on Oct 14th.

1662 Twite***Carduelis flavirostris***

Status: scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Oct 28th and 29th and again on Nov 1st (DM,BEW,PR).

Surrey Hershams GP, a single, thought to be the bird from 1999, was seen on Mar 10th and 31st (DMH,JG).

The Hershams bird was first seen on Nov 21st 1999 and over-wintering by this species in London is quite unusual.

1663 Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*
Status: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Overall numbers were similar to 1999 although there was one three-figure flock, of 100 birds at Wimbledon Common on Apr 16th. Just one territory reported this year, from Hainault Forest. All counts of 20 or more and Inner London records are given below:

- Essex Woodford, 45 on Jan 6th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 20 on Nov 17th. Maple Lodge NR, 30 on Nov 8th. Rye Meads SF, 25 on Nov 25th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 30 on Nov 29th. Bushy Park, around 30 during Feb. Denham Lock, 30+ at the carp lake on Dec 9th. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, 20+ flew over on Feb 6th.
- Bucks Black Park, 50 on Jan 23rd and Mar 4th were the first winter peak dates; there were single figures only in the second winter period.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, 20 on Jan 3rd. Sevenoaks WR, 24 on Feb 28th and 35 on Nov 20th were the winter peaks.
- Surrey Addington Hills, 25 on Jan 20th. Banstead Heath, 35 on Oct 15th. Esher Common, up to 50 in mid-March. Headley Heath, 40 on Oct 15th. Morden Hall Park, 20 between Jan 1st and 8th. Rushett Farm, 30 in stubble on Feb 22nd. Wimbledon Common, around 20 in late Feb and early March, then 100 on Apr 16th reducing to 30 a week later.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one to four on several dates with eight on Oct 19th.

1663.1 Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*
Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

- Essex Hall Marsh, one on Jan 12th (IK).
- Herts Rickmansworth, one on Feb 29th (AVM).
- Middx Trent Park, one on Feb 13th and three on Mar 25th were with Lesser Redpolls (RMC).
- In Lond Regent's Park, the first record for the park was of a single on Oct 6th (DTM).

1666 Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

All but three records fell in the first half of the year, with last one on Aug 31st. A flock at Black Park, Bucks, present from the beginning of the year

into March peaked at 20 on Feb 29th and included up to three singing males. The only other double figure flock this year was 23 at Walton Heath on Apr 22nd. Breeding was confirmed from Limpsfield Chart, Surrey.

- Essex Waltham Abbey, one flew SE on the morning of Jan 12th.
 Herts Amwell GP, one on Aug 31st.
 Middx Hampstead Heath, three flew over on May 13th. Trent Park, two over on Mar 6th and one over on May 6th.
 Bucks Black Park, 5-12 seen on many dates in January and February, rising to 20 on Feb 29th but falling to four by Mar 5th, two on Mar 10th and one on Mar 14th.
 Surrey Limpsfield Chart, birds were seen occasionally in January and February, then ♂♂ seen in territorial dispute on Mar 10th. A pair were seen nest building on Apr 13th. On May 3rd a juvenile was seen with a pair of adults and ♂ was also observed feeding a female on a nest, suggesting two pairs. Tatsfield, two on May 24th. Walton Heath, 23 on Apr 22nd flew off W. Warlingham, one on July 17th. Woldingham, three on May 13th.
 In Lond Regent's Park, two on Apr 30th and two over on Aug 8th.

1710 Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

Following the crash in reported numbers from 86 pairs/territories in 1998 to just 36 in 1999, it is pleasing to report that the appeal for records has led to over 110 pairs/territories being reported in 2000. The highest count was of 14 birds over Horsenden Hill on Oct 22nd. There were no records from Inner London this year. Counts of five or more birds or the highest sector count if lower, significant breeding concentrations and breeding records from regularly monitored sites (1999 figures in brackets) are given below:

- Essex Copped Hall, eight on 7th Jan and seven on Dec 14th. Hainault Forest, 8+ territories. Ongar Park Wood, two territories (0). Sewardstonebury, five territories.
 Herts Amwell GP, six on Jan 18th. Bricket Wood, 9+ territories (9). Croxley Moor, five on Feb 13th. Garston area, 3+ territories (5). Hilfield Park Res, six on Jan 9th. Rye Meads SF, two pairs (3).
 Middx Brent Res, six on Dec 2nd. Horsenden Hill, four territories, 14 over NE in two groups on Oct 22nd. Hounslow Heath, three territories (3-4). Trent Park, seven on Jan 23rd.
 Bucks Only 12 sites reported birds present during the breeding season (19 in 1999). Wraysbury GP, 11 birds were trapped, including re-traps, during September.
 Kent Petts Wood, four on Feb 16th was the highest sector count. Woolwich Common, present in breeding season (1).

Surrey Banstead Heath, six on Dec 28th. Limpsfield Chart, six in September. Oxted, "still breeds but much scarcer". Park Farm, Chessington, one territory (1). Wimbledon Common, two pairs (3), six on Dec 3rd.

1717 Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

A marked decline from previous years with birds recorded from only seven sites (12 in 1999 and 13 in 1998) and just one confirmed breeding record. The best count of the year was again at Broxbourne Woods in December, this time of 11 birds, one higher than in 1999. All records are given:

Essex Woodford, two on Feb 22nd (KM).

Herts Bayfordbury-Hertford, one on June 12th then four, including two recently fledged young, on June 16th (RSr). Broxbourne Woods, seven on Jan 8th, one on Feb 6th and 11 on Dec 30th (SC,AM). Panshanger Park, one on June 3rd (MCg). Post Wood, two on Mar 27th (GJW), plus one on Apr 2nd carrying nest material (MI). Stocker's Farm, one on Apr 25th (AVM).

Surrey Bookham Common, ♂♂ seen on Apr 23rd (GE,PE).

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*
Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

Surrey South Norwood Lake, one W at 08:37 on Oct 1st (JF)

Another poor year, with just a single bird. Annual totals over the last five years have been between one and four, so this lonesome individual fits in well with the current low ebb. The date is typical.

1850 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*
Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

Essex Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 20th (SRH et al)

The worst year since 1994, when none were recorded. This was however the first to occur in spring since 1997. Not surprisingly, the Essex reservoirs seem to provide the best chance of finding one of these charming birds in our area.

1857 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*
Status: widespread but declining breeding resident.

Breeding numbers fell again, to an all time low of 86 pairs/singing males. This was down from 130 in 1999. There was however a small increase in the Kent sector, rising from three pairs in 1999 to five pairs this year.

Essex and Surrey hold the bulk of the breeding population, with 27 and 31 pairs/singing males respectively (34 and 39 in 1999).

All breeding season records (with the number of singing males/territories in parentheses), counts of ten or more and any observer comments on status are given.

- Essex Bretons Lake, 17 on Jan 13th. Copped Hall, ten on Jan 7th increasing to 23 by Mar 5th. Cornmill Meadows (2). Dagenham Chase, 25 on Feb 22nd. Hainault Forest (8+). Hornchurch CP, 25 on Nov 4th. Ongar (6). Sewardstone (3), 16 on Jan 8th and 25 on Feb 6th. Stubber OBC (2). Theydon Garnon (1). Upshire (1). Waltham Abbey Arboretum (1). Wennington (1).
- Herts Abbots Langley, 10 on Jan 15th. Brickendonbury (7), three in 1999. Chiswell Green, 35 on Jan 27th. Coursers Lane Fields, 40 on Jan 29th. London Colney (5). M1/M25 junction (5). Nashes Farm, St Albans, 25 on Mar 17th. Shafford Farm, St Albans, 50 on Dec 30th. Smallford GP (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Fernyhill Farm, 15 on Jan 31st and 21 on Dec 18th. Hounslow Heath, one on Oct 28th was "the second in ten years".
- Bucks Black Park (2). Hollybush Lane (1). Langley Park (2). Tatling End (1).
- Kent Horton Kirby (1). Leavas Green, Salt Box Hill NR (1). Lullingstone Lake Park (3). Petts Wood, one on Mar 16th "now very rare here".
- Surrey Banstead Down (3). Barwell Court Farm (1). Epsom Common, 25 roosted on Jan 17th and 12 on Dec 30th. Farthing Downs (1). Headley Heath (3). Holmethorpe SP (2), down from five in Limpfield Chart (8), ten in February. Moorhouse (3). Norbury Park, 50 on Jan 25th. Park Farm, Chessington (4), up from three in 1999 and two in 1998. Riddlesdown, South Croydon (2), 33 on Jan 8th and 25th. Rushett Farm, 25 on Jan 14th. Trevereux (3).

1866 Ortolan Bunting

Emberiza hortulana

Status: rare vagrant.

Ortolan Bunting bird/days in the London Area 1996 – 2000



Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, ♂ on May 3rd and 4th (SJS *et al*).

This fine male delighted many during his two day sojourn on the reservoir perimeter road. It becomes the 18th London record, following the two, also from the Surrey sector, in 1999. The histogram above shows the peak period to be the spring with 72% of all records, the last week of April and the first week of May has the lion's share with 59%.

1877 Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A total of 265 pairs/singing males was reported from 52 sites. Although the trend still seems to be downward, a number of sites reported similar levels to the previous year. The bulk of breeding records again came from the Essex, Herts and Surrey sectors, with Bucks and Kent particularly poorly represented. Sites which hold three or more pairs (shown in parentheses), site maxima of ten or more and any change in status are given.

- Essex Chingford Plain (5). Cornmill Meads (4). Essex Filter Beds (4), the same as in 1999. Fishers Green (4), down from ten in 1999. Hornchurch CP, 18 on Nov 4th. Kennington Park (4). Monkshams Hall, 25 on Dec 30th. Nazing GP, 15 on Dec 31st. Nazing Marsh, 25 on Dec 22nd. Rainham Marsh (116); although only 20 pairs were reported in 1999, there were 106 in 1998, so presumably stable. Sewardstone, ten on Jan 8th. Walthamstow Res (4); six W on Oct 22nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, 75 on Jan 26th and 35 to roost on Oct 24th. Beech Fm GP, 21 on Dec 30th. Cheshunt GP, 15 to roost on Nov 26th. Chiswell Green, 15 on Jan 27th. Rye Meads (12), down from 13 in 1999; 30 to roost on Mar 4th. Stanborough Reedmarsh (5), the same as in 1999; 34 on Jan 14th. Tyttenhanger GP (6).
- Middx Broadwater GP (11). Hounslow Heath (3-4). Kempton Park Res (3). Perry Oaks SF (1), a decrease from three in 1999. Ponders End Lake (3). Rammey Marsh (3). Tottenham Marsh (4).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP (5).
- Kent Dartford Marsh (5). Littlebrook Lake (3). Swanscombe Marsh (4+); 13 on Dec 28th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT (10), the same as in 1999; 46 on Sep 9th. Beddington SF (17), a decrease from 24 in 1999; 25 on Jan 9th. Fetcham Mill Pond, 30 on Jan 12th. Hersham GP, 15 on Jan 20th. Richmond Park (8-9). Riddlesdown, ten on Feb 13th. Walton Res (7), up from four in 1999.

1882 Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

Either this species has been drastically under recorded, or it has suffered another major reduction in breeding numbers. A maximum of just 13

pairs/singing males were reported, down from 27 in 1999, 38 in 1997 and 65 in 1992. There were however, no records received from Fairlop, which held 12 pairs/singing males in 1999, whilst at Chiswell Green, where there were eight plus pairs in 1999, only between one and three were reported. No records were received from Middlesex this year. All records are given, with pairs/singing males in parentheses.

- Essex Hog Hill, Hainault (2+). Little Heath, Hainault (1).
 Herts Bone Hill (3). Chiswell Green; one on Jan 16th, 15 on Jan 27th, one on June 25th and three on July 8th. Nashes Farm, St Albans, 24 on Mar 17th, including one singing ♂. Potters Crouch (3). Stanborough Reedmarsh, 13 on Jan 14th. Tyttenhanger GP (1).
 Kent Dartford Marsh (1-2). Swanscombe Marsh, two on Dec 28th.
 Surrey Riddlesdown, South Croydon, three on Jan 8th and on Feb 5th. South Norwood CP, one on Jan 7th.

Appendix I: Escapes

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed, to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are full-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in St James's Park.

- 0088 White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
 Essex Fairlop Lake, one on Nov 13th.
 The free-flying bird was also present in St. James's Park which may have accounted for this record.
- 0111 Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
 Middx Osterley Park, an adult of the race *coromandus*, ringed and tame, was present on Aug 12th, 13th and 23rd, Sept 18th, Oct 23rd and Dec 7th.
- 0134 White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*
 Surrey Chertsey Meads, one from July 22nd to 24th and 30th, later relocating to West Byfleet, just outside the LNHS recording area. Thorpe, one on Oct 6th to 8th, where it roosted on office roofs in Thorpe Trading Estate. Both records relate to an escapee from Bristol Zoo, which bears a darvic ring with the initials AX.

Black Swan***Cygnus atratus***

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Oct 30th, Nov 2nd and Dec 17th. Fairlop Lake, one on Sept 4th. Harrow Lodge Farm, one on Oct 22nd. Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 4th, Feb 12th, 19th, 20th and 26th, Apr 1st and 18th, Aug 19th, Sept 9th and 17th, Oct 22nd and Nov 19th.
- Herts Aldenham Res, one present from June to August. Amwell GP, one from Apr 19th until May 6th and on Dec 13th. Bury Lake, one on Jan 6th, 16th and 18th, Feb 12th and 13th, two on Feb 28th, one on Mar 12th, two on Mar 23rd, Apr 9th and 14th, one on May 4th, two on May 8th, June 10th, one on June 13th, Oct 20th, 22nd, Nov 6th, 19th and Dec 21st. Radlett area, one from May 22nd to 24th. Stockers Lake, one on Mar 9th to 30th, Apr 16th, June 13th, two July 13th, 15th, 23rd, Aug 5th, 7th, 14th, 20th, Sept 14th and 18th. At Stockers Lake one present from Oct 30th remained until the end of the year. Stockers Farm, one on May 8th. Troy Mill GP, one on Oct 27th and 30th, Nov 1st and 6th.
- Middx Tottenham Lock, one on Jan 9th, Mar 4th, Apr 19th and May 2nd.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two on Oct 29th and 31st.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one on Nov 19th and Dec 2nd.
- Surrey Claremont Lake, ♀ was first seen on a nest on Jan 28th, with only a single cygnet hatched on Mar 10th (the fate of which was not reported). Riverside Open Space (Molesey), one on Jan 1st and Feb 9th. South Norwood CP, one from Sept 7th to 9th. Thorpe Water Park, five on Jan 9th, one on Feb 2nd and 6th, four on March 12th, three on Sept 10th, eight on Sept 16th, three on Oct 21st and 29th, five on Nov 12th, three on Nov 25th and five on Dec 17th. Walton Res, two on Oct 6th.

0154 Whooper Swan***Cygnus cygnus***

- Herts Stanborough Lakes, one on Jan 7th, Aug 26th, Sept 13th and in November.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, one present throughout the whole year.

0159 White-fronted Goose***Anser albifrons***

- Essex Fishers Green, one on Apr 25th, May 5th, 10th, 12th and 30th. Walthamstow Res, one on May 21st.
- Herts Helicon GP, one on Dec 10th. Lynsters Farm, singles on May 19th and from Sept 12th until Nov 8th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Oct 10th. Troy Mill GP, one on Oct 10th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on Apr 14th. Broadwater Lake, one from Mar 4th to Apr 27th.
- In Lond Victoria Park, Hackney, one on June 27th and from July 11th until 24th.
- All the Herts records are thought to relate to one bird.

- 0160 Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*
 Herts Amwell GP, one seen on several dates between Apr 16th and July 13th.
 Kent Greenwich Park, one throughout January and February, again on Oct 30th and Nov 11th.
- 0158 Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*
 Surrey Holmethorpe SP, one seen on Apr 2nd and 10th.
- Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*
- Essex Fishers Green, three on Mar 10th, two on Jan 7th and 28th, Feb 22nd and May 5th, and one on May 8th with a juvenile on Nov 1st. King George V Res, one on Apr 30th. Waltham Abbey, one on R. Lee on Oct 2nd. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 20th and one S on May 8th.
 Herts Amwell GP, one on May 17th.
 Middx Brent Res, two on May 31st. Broadwater Lake, one July 6th. Bushy Park, single birds on Jan 26th, Feb 8th and 17th, Apr 14th and May 30th. Stockley Park, three on Aug 12th.
 Bucks Thorney Weir, one on June 30th.
 Surrey Barnes WWT, two from May 30th to June 4th, one Aug 15th and one Sept 18th. Ham Common Pond, one on Dec 22nd. Island Barn Res, two N on Apr 2nd. Kew Gardens, three on Feb 20th, seven on Apr 6th, three on Dec 2nd. Richmond Park, one at Pen Ponds on May 13th. R. Thames, several sightings at various locations; Molesey, one on July 4th, Richmond two on Apr 8th, one on May 1st, two on Aug 16th, three on Oct 10th. Riverside Open Space (Molesey), one Feb 21st.
- 0163 Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 15th.
 Surrey South Norwood CP, one Jan 1st, 26th, 28th Jan and Feb 7th. Thorpe Water Park, one on Sept 10th.
- Emperor Goose** *Anser canagicus*
 Essex Fishers Green, one on May 8th.
- Swan Goose** *Anser cygnoides*
 Essex Walthamstow Res, a pair present all year, with four on Jan 21st.
- 0167 Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*
 Essex Holyfield Lake, a pair may have attempted breeding. Hooks Marsh, one on May 30th. Cornmill Meadows, singles on Jan 22nd, Mar 18th, May 13th,

- Sept 20th. Fishers Green, up to nine between Jan 1st and Aug 13th. Hall Marsh, singles on Jan 29th, Apr 16th and June 7th, two on Jan 1st and Oct 29th, and three on May 12th. Waltham Abbey area, singles on April 7th and 25th, May 5th and 30th and two on Oct 2nd, 17th and Nov 26th.
- Herts Lynster's Farm, one on March 10th. Stocker's, Farm, one on Apr 8th, 14th and May 4th. Batchworth Lake, one on Apr 9th. Bowyer's GP, one on Apr 16th. Cheshunt GP, one on June 17th and Nov 14th. Stocker's Lake, singles on Aug 20th, Sept 14th and 18th.
- Middx Kempton Park Res, singles on Sept 13th, 15th and 23rd. Gough Park, one on Dec 28th.
- Bucks Langley Park, two on Jan 7th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one seen intermittently during March, two on Aug 17th.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, one on 31st Dec. Hersham GP, one from Apr 30th to May 3rd was also seen on May 27th. Peckham Rye Park, one on Sept 25th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, a pair seen throughout January to May, and one from September to December. Kensington Gardens, one on Feb 15th.

Red-breasted Goose***Branta ruficollis***

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 17th. Fishers Green, one on May 18th, June 6th to Aug 2nd, 13th and 21st, and Sept 5th.

0171 Ruddy Shelduck***Tadorna ferruginea***

- Essex Barking Bay, ♀ on Jan 17th. Cornmill Meadows, ♀ on Apr 5th, May 8th to 10th and June 13th. Fishers Green, one on Apr 24th and ♂♀ on Aug 2nd. Rainham Marsh, ♀ from July 25th until the 31st. Upshire, two on Mar 3rd.
- Herts Stocker's Lake, one on Aug 5th.
- Middx Wraysbury Res, one on Aug 13th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Dec 30th.
- Surrey Kew Gardens, ♂ on Apr 6th and ♂♀ on Nov 2nd. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on June 8th to 11th, with ten sightings between June 18th and July 5th. Thorpe Water Park, two on Feb 2nd.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one was seen frequently throughout the year.

Cape Shelduck***Tadorna cana***

- Surrey Epsom, one was present at Stamford Green Pond from July 15th to Aug 4th.

Paradise Shelduck***Tadorna variegata***

- Surrey Claremont Lake, ♂♀ bred fledging one chick from a brood of three. The young bird was last seen on Oct 7th. Walton Res, ♂♀ thought to be the adults from Claremont Lake, were seen on Sept 8th.

0177 Wood Duck***Anix sponsa***Middx Ruislip Lido, ♀ on Jan 1st, 5th and 18th.**Muscovy Duck*****Cairina moschata***Essex Wintry Wood, one on Mar 5th.Herts Bury Lake, one on Nov 11th and 27th.Middx Brent Res, one on Jan 15th and 29th.Bucks Black Park, one on Feb 29th.Surrey Barnes, one at Barnes pond from January to June and from November to December. Epsom, two at Stamford Green Pond on Aug 28th to 31st, four from Sept 14th until the end of the year. Kew Gardens, ♂♀♀♀ on June 4th and Dec 2nd. Wimbledon Common, ten at Bluegate Gravel Pit on Aug 10th.In Lond Victoria Park, one on May 10th.**Chiloe Wigeon*****Anas sibilatrix***Essex Cornmill Meadows, ♂♂ on May 12th.**0189 Pintail*****Anas acuta***

It is very difficult to assess records of this species in London as there are free-flying feral populations at St James's Park and the mouth of the R. Wandle at Wandsworth. Dispersal of feral birds from these sites seems to have been responsible for increasing the number of observations over recent years (particularly in Surrey and Inner London).

Herts Amwell GP, a ♀ seen on five dates between June 28th and July 27th.Middx Bushy Park, 3♂ 3♀ on Dec 12th and 13th, ♂♂♀♀ on Dec 30th were assumed to be feral.Surrey Reported from Barnes Pond, Barnes WWT, Beddington SF, R. Wandle, R. Thames at Putney & Wandsworth and South Norwood CP with a maximum count of 20 on Jan 24th at Barnes WWTIn Lond Buckingham Palace, one to two birds from January to June. Lambeth Bridge, one on Apr 27th, four on Sept 28th and Oct 4th and three on Oct 13th.**Yellow-billed Pintail*****Anas georgica***Middx Brent Res, one on May 16th and Nov 16th.**Cape Teal*****Anas capensis***Surrey Beddington SF, one on Jan 15th.

Ringed Teal*Callonetta leucophrys*Surrey Beddington SF, one on Jan 9th and Feb 13th.**Red Shoveler***Anas platalea*Essex Connaught Water, ♂ on Jan 6th and 7th.**0196 Red-crested Pochard***Netta rufina*

Herts Lea Navigation, St. Margarets, ♀ present all year also seen at Amwell GP and Rye House.

Middx Bushy Park, ♂♀ (introduced from Regent's Park) bred producing two young, were present from January to November at least. Stoke Newington Res, one on Aug 24th.Kent Orpington Pond, a leucistic ♀ from Mar 1st to Apr 4th and again on July 11th. Ruxley GP, a leucistic ♀ on July 29th (the same as the Orpington bird, was first seen in 1999).Surrey Kew Gardens, ♂ on Apr 6th, ♀ with three juveniles on July 1st and ?? on Dec 2nd.**0202 Ferruginous Duck***Aythya nyroca*Middx Bushy Park, one on Jan 1st, two on Oct 1st. Kempton Park, ? on May 22nd.**Red-billed Teal***Anas erythrorhyncha*Essex Connaught Water, an adult on Jan 7th. Paynes Lane GP, one on Nov 5th.**Philippines Duck***Anas luzonica*Middx Stanmore, two at Spring Ponds from Nov 21st until the end of the year.**New Zealand Scaup***Aythya novaeseelandiae*Essex Connaught Water, one on Feb 13th.**Rosybill***Netta peposaca*Middx Bushy Park, one on Jan 11th, ♂ on Dec 4th, and ♂♀ on Dec 12th and 13th.**White-faced Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*Surrey Beddington SF, five on Oct 14th.

White-headed Duck*Oxyura leucocephala*Essex Walthamstow Res, one from Jan 1st until Feb 20th.**Red-tailed Hawk**Herts Amwell GP, one on Sept 29th and Oct 1st.**Eastern Rosella***Platycercus eximius*Essex Romford, one was seen at a garden feeder on Mar 20th.**Alexandrine Parakeet***Psittacula eupatria*Surrey Hersham GP, one on Oct 5th, 14th and 18th, presumably roosting at the Esher RFC Ring-necked Parakeet roost.**Military Macaw***Ara militaris*Surrey Barnes WWT, one Sept 20th.**9073 Monk Parakeet***Myiopsitta monachus*Herts Borehamwood, 17 were visiting a bird table on Feb 16th, 15 on Nov 26th, three on Dec 26th. Bushey, one over the train station Aug 22nd.Surrey Barnes WWT, a pair seen on Jan 7th, 9th and Feb 4th. Only a single bird was seen on Mar 12th, Apr 29th and 30th, June 1st, 15th and 16th, July 30th and Sept 1st. Lonsdale Road Res, a pair on Mar 19th, one on Aug 20th, and Dec 7th.

The birds at Borehamwood have been in the area since 1993, see British Birds Vol 95, No 7 for more information.

Blossom-headed Parakeet*Psittacula roseata*Essex King George V Res, one on Sept 14th.**9047 Budgerigar***Melopsittacus undulatus*Middx Brent Res, one Apr 21st.Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 25th and one on Aug 26th. Morden Hall Park, one on Mar 10th and one from late May to June 2nd.**Orange-winged Parrot***Amazona amazonica*Surrey Hersham, one at the Ring-necked Parakeet roost at Esher RFC on July 28th, Oct 14th, Nov 12th, 19th and 27th, Dec 20th. The same individual was

also seen flying to the Esher RFC roost from Hersham GP on Mar 4th and Queen Elizabeth II Res on July 17th, Aug 6th and 28th.

Cockatiel***Nymphicus hollandicus***

- Herts Amwell GP, one Aug 20th and Oct 21st. Broxbourne GP, one on Aug 26th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Aug 9th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 29th. Ravenscourt Park, one on May 11th.
- Surrey Molesey Heath, one on Apr 6th. South Norwood Lake, ♂ on Apr 19th, June 4th and July 26th. Epsom Temple Rd area, one on July 17th. Barnes WWT, one on Sept 9th.

9220 Senegal Parrot***Poicephalus senegalus***

- Surrey Oxted, one at Hurst Green on Sept 15th.

African Grey Parrot***Poicephalus erithacus***

- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on May 9th.

9211 Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot***Amazona aestiva***

- Surrey Hersham, one joined the Ring-necked Parakeet roost at Esher RFC on Dec 20th.

0735 Barn Owl***Tyto alba***

- Herts Rye Meads SF, one present for over a week around Jan 15th, was thought to be an escape.

Canary***Serinus canaria***

- In Lond Paddington Green W2, one found dead on Dec 13th was colour-ringed.

Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild***

- Middx Wood Green Res, one on Apr 29th.

9053 Orange-cheeked Waxbill***Estrilda melpoda***

- Surrey Hersham, one joined the Ring-necked Parakeet roost at Esher RFC on Oct 14th, Nov 12th and 19th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on July 17th.

Black-headed Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus***

- Essex Dagenham Chase, ♂ Sept 14th.

Appendix II: Hybrids

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids.

Lesser White-fronted Goose X Bar-headed Goose

Surrey Kew Gardens, two on Feb 20th and three on Dec 2nd.

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose

- Essex Walthamstow Res, three on Jan 15th, two on 31st, one on Feb 26th, Mar 20th and July 2nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, an adult on June 3rd, three first-years present from Oct 13th until the end of the year.
- Surrey Barnes WWT, one on Nov 14th, three on Nov 21st and one on Dec 1st. Barnes Fishing Pond, two on Mar 14th. R. Thames at Richmond, two on Aug 16th.
- In Lond Grand Union Canal, at Westbourne Green, one on June 1st and Sep 13th. Hyde Park, one on Apr 4th and Sept 11th.

Canada Goose x 'grey' Goose

- Essex Walthamstow Res, one Canada Goose paired with a feral-type grey goose present throughout the year, bred and produced three goslings.
- Surrey Molesey – seven hybrid grey goose x Canada Goose hybrids counted along a 1 km stretch of the R. Thames on July 4th.

Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose

Surrey Hersham GP, two on Apr 30th.

Shelduck x ?

Surrey Hersham GP, two on Mar 19th. Walton Res, two on July 10th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, three on Aug 17th.

Chiloe Wigeon X American Wigeon

Surrey Barnes WWT, one present Oct 23rd to 24th, Nov 13th, Dec 1st and 14th.

American Wigeon x ?

Surrey Barnes WWT, an unspecified American Wigeon hybrid on Nov 26th and Dec 2nd. These records may well relate to the Chiloe Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid present around the same time.

Mallard X Wigeon

Middx Staines Res, ? on April 14th.

Blue-winged Teal X Cinnamon Teal

Surrey Barnes WWT, one present Nov 17th, 18th and 21st.

Hooded Merganser X Goldeneye

Middx Bedford Lakes CP, ♂ on Jan 5th. Staines Res, ♂ on May 1st, 6th and 11th. This is believed to be the same bird as seen at Bedford CP in 1999, tentatively identified as a Hooded Merganser x Smew hybrid.

Aythya hybrid

- Essex Connaught Water, a probable New Zealand Scaup x Tufted Duck hybrid on Mar 5th. King George V Res, ♂ Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrid on Aug 15th and 31st.
- Herts Aldenham Res, ♂ Red-crested Pochard x Pochard hybrid was present throughout the year, now present since at least 1996. Amwell GP, ♂ Pochard X Tufted, resembling a Lesser Scaup, present from Dec 24th into 2001. Hilfield Park Res, Tufted X Ferruginous Duck type on Mar 11th and 12th, the same or another on July 23rd. Standard Abbots GP, Tufted X Scaup on Feb 4th.
- Middx King George VI Res, one on Jan 27th. Wraysbury Res one on Jan 20th and 27th. Both described as ♀ Lesser Scaup types.
- Bucks Old Slade Lake, ♂ Ferruginous Duck hybrid, Aug 30th. The parentage of this bird was difficult to fathom, with no evidence of Pochard or Tufted duck and the observer concluded it was possibly 75% Ferruginous Duck. The same individual was seen at Wraysbury GP on on Aug 30th.
- Surrey Thorpe Water Park, Ferruginous x Tufted Duck hybrid on Mar 15th. Walton Res, ♂ Lesser Scaup type from Jan 1st to Feb 9th, also seen at Island Barn Res and Fieldcommon GP.
- In Lond Burgess Park and Surrey Docks, a Redhead type hybrid on Feb 1st.

Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull

Essex Coppermill Filter Beds, one first-winter on Jan 3rd. Wm Girling Res, one first winter on Feb 6th and 8th.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull

- Essex Beckton, two adults were present in the gull colony, one bird paired with a Lesser Black-backed gull but no young were seen.
- Middx Ruislip Lido, one adult on Oct 15th.

Hooded Crow x Carrion Crow

Surrey Peckham Rye Park, one with local crow flock from Oct 15th 1999 and seen up to Mar 17th.

First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants – 2000

Summer Migrants	Arrival	Departure
Garganey	Feb 5 Amwell GP	Oct 22 Rye Meads SF
Marsh Harrier	Mar 29 Rye Meads SF	Oct 22 Beddington SF
Osprey	Mar 24 Island Barn Res	Oct 3 Horton GP
Hobby	Mar 21 Barnes WWT	Oct 10 Maple Lodge NR
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 12 Stocker's Farm	Sept 27 Rainham Marsh
Whimbrel	Apr 14 Rainham Marsh	Aug 28 Bedfont Lakes CP
Sandwich Tern	Apr 22 five sites	Sept 25 Island Barn Res
Common Tern	Apr 2 Amwell GP	Oct 5 Island Barn Res
Arctic Tern	Apr 7 Walton Res	Sept 23 King George V Res
Black Tern	Apr 30 Staines Res/ Island Barn Res	Oct 2 Walton Res
Turtle Dove	Apr 20 Rye Meads SF	Sept 24 Queen Mother Res
Cuckoo	Apr 10 Vicarage Farm	Sept 28 Chelsham
Swift	Apr 17 Island Barn Res	Oct 12 Rye Meads SF
Sand Martin	Mar 12 Amwell GP/ Wm Girling Res	Dec 15 Walton Res
Swallow	Mar 19 Barnes WWT	Nov 19 Thames Ditton
House Martin	Mar 28 King George V Res	Oct 30 Berrylands
Tree Pipit	Apr 6 Limsfield Chart	Oct 8 Beddington SF
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 27 Watford	Oct 14 King George VI Res
Nightingale	Apr 17 Copped Hall	July 17 Balls Wood
Redstart	Apr 10 Hounslow Heath	Oct 15 Warlingham
Whinchat	Apr 19 Bushey	Nov 12 Lake Farm
Wheatear	Mar 9 Beddington SF	Nov 8 Rainham Marsh
Ring Ouzel	Apr 5 Brent Res/Chelsham	Dec 9 Staines Res
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 14 Fishers Green	July 8 Tottenham Marsh
Sedge Warbler	Apr 1 Rye Meads	Oct 2 Swanscombe Marsh
Reed Warbler	Apr 13 Littlebrook Lake	Oct 22 Rye Meads SF
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 16 Walthamstow Marsh	Sept 29 Dagenham Marsh
Whitethroat	Apr 2 Molesey GP	Oct 13 Fishers Green
Garden Warbler	Apr 10 West Molesey	Sept 30 Rye Meads SF
Wood Warbler	Apr 14 Nonsuch Park	Sept 29 Hampstead Heath
Willow Warbler	Mar 26 Sevenoaks WR	Sept 30 Wraysbury GP
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 22 Fairlop Lakes CP	Oct 4 Trent Park
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 11 Hilfield Park Res	Sept 14 Moorhouse/ Regent's Park
Winter Migrants	Departure	Arrival
Bittern	Mar 15 Rye Meads SF	Oct 10 Maple Lodge NR
Smew	Mar 20 Wraysbury GP	Nov 19 Stocker's Lake
Goosander	Apr 24 King George VI Res	Sept 22 Wraysbury GP
Jack Snipe	Apr 22 Fairlop Lakes CP	Oct 8 Rye Meads SF
Water Pipit	May 2 Staines Moor	Oct 13 Beddington SF
Fieldfare	Apr 28 Rushett Farm	Oct 10 Oxhey
Redwing	Apr 17 three sites	Sept 21 Sutton
Brambling	May 8 Oakwood	Oct 14 Morden Hall Pk/S.

Ringling Report for 2000

Roger Taylor

The total number of birds reported as ringed in the LNHS recording area during 2000 was 14,617, an increase of 2% on the previous year. The total is made up of 12,618 full-grown birds of 87 species and 1,999 pulli (nestling or chick) of 43 species. The most ringed species was Blue Tit (2,048) followed by Great Tit (1,292), Blackcap (1,259), and Reed Warbler (772).

Many factors can affect the ringling totals in any year; including changes in ringling effort, availability of suitable ringling sites and the prevailing weather conditions. All of these have undoubtedly influenced the data from which this report is produced. However, it is still possible to draw general conclusions from the figures and they provide a useful indicator of population trends.

A number of common resident species showed a decrease in numbers ringed compared with 1999. These included Wren, Dunnock, and Robin. However, these are not significant and all these species remained close to or above the average for the last three years. The exception was Blue Tit where although the overall total was down by only 1% on the previous year's total, this was itself down on the 1998 total. Disappointingly, Song Thrush did not repeat the encouraging gains of last year, falling back to a total of 181. The numbers of Blackcap ringed showed a further small increase holding onto the substantial gains made over the past few years. Garden Warblers however did not fare so well, with a fall in numbers of 18% and Willow Warblers continued their worrying decline.

Species that showed notable increases over their 1999 totals were Green Woodpecker (41%), House Martin (123%) all of which were from Rye Meads, Whitethroat (44%), Goldcrest (34%) and Long-tailed Tit (41%). The number of Starling ringed picked up a little to total 83 following a decline over the last few years. Siskin and Redpoll, both of whose numbers fluctuate from year to year, were ringed in good numbers in 2000.

The number of pulli ringed during the year totalled 1,999, slightly down on the previous year. As would be expected the species with the most pulli ringed were box nesters: Blue Tit (638), Great Tit (369) and Tree Sparrow (388). The Tree Sparrow total for Beddington Sewage Farm (346) was the largest since the nest box study began in 1984, which is good news in view of this species' fragile situation. Surprisingly, the total number of Blue Tit pulli ringed this year was down by 17%, contrasting with that for Great Tit, which remained stable. Records from the nest box project at the Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve showed that box occupancy was down to 52% in 2000 and the number of Blue Tits that fledged was the lowest since the study began in 1989, whilst Great Tits were only slightly below the ten year average. Additional effort at Rye Meads brought the number of Reed Warbler pulli ringed there to 136, an increase of some 84%. Runnymede, Rye Meads and Maple Cross ringling groups between them managed to ring 89 Common Tern pulli, exactly the same number as were ringed in 1999.

There were several noteworthy ringling records during the year including: Pochard, Lapwing (5), Jack Snipe, Yellow Wagtail (2), Nightingale, Redstart (2), Stonechat (6), Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Grasshopper Warbler (8), Firecrest (4), Pied Flycatcher and Hawfinch (8).

ST068431 26/06/95 Nilsia, **Finland**
 VV 09/12/00 Broomfield Park, Middlesex
 2104km.; 1993 days.

This bird carries a darvic and has been recorded on 22 occasions since 1995. The locations were: Malmo, Sweden (5), Joensuu, Finland (1), Wood Green Reservoir, Middlesex (4) and Broomfield Park, Middlesex (12).

ST147012 24/06/91 Virolahti, **Finland**
 VV 05/02/00 Alexandra Park, Middlesex
 1978km.; 3148 days

ST197551 30/05/98 Kuopio, **Finland**
 VV 25/01/00 Hyde Park, Middlesex
 2078km.; 605 days

Every year a considerable number of records of this species are received. These comprise both birds ringed in the London area, mostly as adults in winter, and birds ringed abroad, usually as pulli. The records listed above are typical and include three long distant recoveries. Many winter and early spring movements are probably in response to the prevailing weather conditions rather than the seasons. In addition to those shown above there were also records of ringed birds originating from Belgium (1), Denmark (3), Sweden (1), Norway (2), Estonia (2), Lithuania (8), Finland (3), Germany (1), Holland (1), Czechoslovakia (1) and Poland (3).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GA27712 10/07/99 Orfordness, Suffolk
 VV 03/08/00 Walton Reservoir, Surrey
 c.211km.; 390 days.

E411 25/06/96 Europort, Rotterdam, **Netherlands**
 (Darvic) VV 05/02/00 Kensington Gardens, Middlesex
 (distance not available); 1320 days

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

SB01888 31/05/00 Drayton Beauchamp, Buckinghamshire.
 R 30/07/00 Iver, Buckinghamshire.
 27km.; 60 days.

Ringed as a first year, this bird had dispersed from its natal site in search of pastures new.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

RP72966 25/01/00 Lower Feltham, Greater London.
 X 22/03/00 Schleswig-Holstein, **Germany**
 798km.; 57 days

An interesting movement of an adult bird, which had presumably wintered in the London area and was possibly returning to its breeding grounds.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

N785568		15/01/00	Hurst Green, Surrey
	X	24/04/00	Callander, Highland Region, Scotland 720km.; 100 days

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

3920292		30/10/92	Maine-et-Loire, France
R		02/05/93	Mitcham Common, Surrey 439km.; 184 days

There have been less than ten previous records of this species from France being recovered in Britain and this one has come from some distance down the west coast. This is another delayed record.

Table 1. Total of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2000

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total
Little Grebe	5	1	6
Grey Heron		49	49
Mute Swan	29	8	37
Greylag Goose	56		56
Canada Goose	113		113
Shelduck	2	6	8
Gadwall	6	9	15
Teal	3		3
Mallard	49	16	65
Pochard	1		1
Tufted Duck	6	5	11
Sparrowhawk	12		12
Kestrel	7	10	17
Water Rail	10		10
Moorhen	36	3	39
Coot	19	4	23
Little Ringed Plover		4	4
Lapwing		5	5
Jack Snipe	1		1
Snipe	9		9
Green Sandpiper	1		1
Common Sandpiper	3		3
Black-headed Gull	26		26
Common Gull	1		1
Common Tern		89	89
Stock Dove		8	8
Woodpigeon	20	10	30
Turtle Dove		4	4
Collared Dove	15	2	17
Cuckoo	1	1	2

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Little Owl	2		2
Tawny Owl		1	1
Swift	39		39
Kingfisher	44		44
Green Woodpecker	31		31
Great Spotted Woodpecker	43		43
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	2		2
Sand Martin	40		40
Swallow	1	8	9
House Martin	196		196
Meadow Pipit	1		1
Yellow Wagtail	2		2
Grey Wagtail	31	2	33
Pied Wagtail	20	5	25
Wren	535		535
Dunnock	480	11	491
Robin	602	13	615
Nightingale	1		1
Redstart	2		2
Whinchat	1		1
Stonechat	6		6
Wheatear	1		1
Ring Ouzel	1		1
Blackbird	567	21	588
Fieldfare	8		8
Song Thrush	173	8	181
Redwing	15		15
Mistle Thrush		9	9
Grasshopper Warbler	2	6	8
Sedge Warbler	372	70	442
Reed Warbler	636	136	772
Lesser Whitethroat	102		102
Whitethroat	554	9	563
Garden Warbler	178	4	182
Blackcap	1,251	8	1259
Chiffchaff	578		578
Willow Warbler	241	7	248
Goldcrest	345		345
Firecrest	4		4
Spotted Flycatcher	1		1
Pied Flycatcher	1		1
Long-tailed Tit	742		742
Marsh Tit	1		1
Coal Tit	29		29
Blue Tit	1,410	638	2048
Great Tit	923	369	1292
Nuthatch	5		5

Treecreeper	18		18
Jay	46		46
Magpie	21	8	29
Carrion Crow	1	3	4
Starling	70	13	83
House Sparrow	65		65
Tree Sparrow	23	388	411
Chaffinch	244	3	247
Brambling	4		4
Greenfinch	639	2	641
Goldfinch	132		132
Siskin	324		324
Linnet	59		59
Redpoll	68		68
Bullfinch	83		83
Hawfinch	8		8
Yellowhammer	14		14
Reed Bunting	149	23	172
Totals	12,618	1,999	14,617

Roger Taylor 21 Dallin Road, Plumstead, London SE18 3NY

The Breeding Bird Survey in London, 2000

D.A. Coleman

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was introduced in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the BTO. Each square is allocated to a volunteer who makes two early morning transect walks between April and June separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year following the same route. By comparing counts of birds made on the same square in different years, it is possible to measure population changes.

This report covers the BTO's London region, which corresponds to the 15 ten kilometre squares overlapping the London boroughs. In 2000, 62 squares were surveyed, one less than in 1999. There are 22 squares that have been surveyed every year since the survey began in 1994. A further five surveys were completed as 'London surveys' by observers who wished to contribute to the national scheme but for whom a square was not available. They followed similar methods to the national scheme but the squares were randomly selected close to the observer's home.

Last year, this report presented trends employing the statistical methods used by the BTO in addition to the paired square approach. The former has certain advantages and is used solely this year. The national report of the BBS for 1999 included a regional table giving trends for different regions, one of which is London. A species had to occur in 20 squares averaged over the survey period to be included in the national report. The trend is more reliable with a greater number of squares and 20 squares is considered to be a sufficient number, albeit on the low side. Table 1 shows the percentage change between years that reflect the underlying population change for these species between 1999/2000 and 1994/2000 with the change found nationally. The population changes will not agree exactly with those in the national report because a slightly different set of squares are used in each analysis. The BTO includes squares within the Greater London boundary while this report uses the BTO London region, also the BTO do not include the 'London surveys' for observers for whom a national square was not available.

Between 1994 and 2000, nine species show statistically significant increases (Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Wren, Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Magpie, Carrion Crow and Chaffinch), five show significant declines (Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Starling, House Sparrow and Goldfinch) and for seven species, the direction of any change is unclear (Mallard, Feral Rock Dove, Swift, Dunnock, Song Thrush, Jay and Greenfinch). Encouragingly, there are more increases than decreases. However, the confidence intervals for many species are wide and the three species (House Sparrow, Blackbird and Starling) with the tightest interval (ie where we can be most certain about the trend) all show declines. These three species seem to be faring worse in London than nationally.

The cumulative total of species continues to grow: Gadwall, Garganey, Tawny Owl, Tree Pipit, Redstart and Redwing vied to be the 100th species and the total now stands at 103. Table 2 lists each species with three measures. The

first is the percentage of squares where a species has ever been recorded. Only Blackbird has been recorded from every square. Some squares have been covered for seven years while others have only been covered for one year. Almost inevitably, the more years a square is surveyed, the longer its cumulative list becomes. The second is the percentage of visits when a species was recorded. For Swift, the percentage was 48% reflecting that they may not have arrived at the time of the first visit, other summer visitors show a lower figure than the first column for the same reason. For House Sparrow, the percentage of 94% reflects that they are still seen on nearly all visits, the decline has affected the numbers of birds seen, they are still very widespread but at a much reduced abundance. The third is the mean number of birds recorded from visits when they were recorded.

Previous reports have concentrated on the more common species. Of the red listed birds, Turtle Dove and Tree Sparrow have only been recorded twice, while Grey Partridge has yet to be recorded. Both Turtle Dove and Grey Partridge may have been lost as breeding birds in Greater London. Corn Bunting and Spotted Flycatcher have been recorded on 3 squares (4 visits) and 7 squares (13 visits) respectively.

Table 1. Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region compared with the United Kingdom. (lcl=lower confidence limit, ucl=upper confidence limit). Sample size is the mean number of squares occupied over the survey period.

	Sample size	Change 1999/2000	Change 1994/2000	Change 1994/2000		UK change 1994/2000
				lcl	ucl	
Mallard	24	-12	-18	-43	20	25
Feral Rock Dove	44	-18	-11	-28	11	3
Woodpigeon	49	11	51	23	87	3
Collared Dove	31	3	41	6	88	18
Swift	38	-7	23	-21	92	-18
Wren	42	12	20	0	44	24
Dunnock	36	-3	-3	-27	29	8
Robin	44	18	37	12	68	20
Blackbird	49	13	-21	-30	-11	13
Song Thrush	31	-1	-8	-34	27	12
Mistle Thrush	23	-8	-48	-68	-18	-2
Blue Tit	47	2	26	4	53	3
Great Tit	40	3	96	47	160	18
Jay	22	8	-32	-60	13	-7
Magpie	47	4	25	2	54	9
Carrion Crow	49	8	64	31	105	17
Starling	49	-5	-27	-40	-12	-5
House Sparrow	47	-15	-59	-65	-53	-5
Chaffinch	21	28	81	18	179	6
Greenfinch	31	20	25	-12	76	34
Goldfinch	20	-17	-56	-76	-17	11

Table 2. Species that have been recorded on the BBS between 1994 and 2000 with three different measures. (A total of 83 squares have been surveyed and 691 visits have been made.)

	% of squares where species has ever been recorded	% of visits when species was recorded (0=less than 1%)	Mean number of birds per visit when recorded
Little Grebe	7	2	2
Great Crested Grebe	7	3	2
Cormorant	14	2	
Grey Heron	69	22	2
Mute Swan	23	7	5
Greylag Goose	6	1	2
Canada Goose	57	20	7
Barnacle Goose	1	0	1
Egyptian Goose	1	0	1
Shelduck	4	1	4
Mandarin	6	2	2
Gadwall	1	0	3
Teal	4	0	1
Mallard	73	41	8
Garganey	1	0	2
Shoveler	2	0	1
Pochard	5	2	3
Tufted Duck	22	8	4
Ruddy Duck	2	1	4
Red Kite	1	0	1
Sparrowhawk	37	7	1
Kestrel	58	16	1
Hobby	5	1	1
Red-legged Partridge	4	1	2
Pheasant	17	8	2
Moorhen	45	24	2
Coot	27	16	5
Lapwing	14	2	4
Whimbrel	1	0	1
Redshank	1	0	4
Common Sandpiper	2	0	1
Black-headed Gull	42	10	6
Common Gull	12	3	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	40	13	4
Herring Gull	41	11	3
Great Black-backed Gull	6	1	2
Common Tern	13	5	2
Feral Rock Dove	98	85	38
Stock Dove	25	9	3
Woodpigeon	99	98	19
Collared Dove	69	57	6
Turtle Dove	1	0	1
Ring-necked Parakeet	18	5	4
Cuckoo	16	5	2
Tawny Owl	1	0	1
Swift	94	48	14
Kingfisher	6	1	1
Green Woodpecker	48	22	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	54	23	1
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	2	0	1
Skylark	25	17	4
Sand Martin	4	0	1
Swallow	37	14	3

House Martin	48	17	5
Tree Pipit	1	0	2
Meadow Pipit	6	1	8
Yellow Wagtail	2	1	1
Grey Wagtail	8	2	1
Pied Wagtail	51	15	2
Wren	90	78	7
Dunnock	84	60	3
Robin	96	81	6
Black Redstart	1	0	1
Redstart	1	0	2
Wheatear	1	0	3
Blackbird	100	98	15
Fieldfare	2	0	1
Song Thrush	77	51	3
Redwing	2	0	6
Mistle Thrush	70	33	3
Sedge Warbler	5	2	2
Reed Warbler	6	3	7
Lesser Whitethroat	12	2	1
Whitethroat	42	18	2
Garden Warbler	12	3	1
Blackcap	55	29	3
Chiffchaff	42	20	2
Willow Warbler	39	14	2
Goldcrest	24	8	2
Spotted Flycatcher	8	2	1
Long-tailed Tit	48	17	3
Coal Tit	22	8	2
Blue Tit	98	89	9
Great Tit	94	67	4
Nuthatch	17	7	2
Treecreeper	8	1	1
Jay	71	30	2
Magpie	98	92	6
Jackdaw	27	6	4
Rook	8	2	11
Carrion Crow	99	98	11
Starling	99	99	49
House Sparrow	99	94	43
Tree Sparrow	1	0	1
Chaffinch	63	34	4
Greenfinch	81	53	4
Goldfinch	64	26	3
Linnet	33	15	4
Lesser Redpoll	6	1	3
Bullfinch	11	3	2
Yellowhammer	8	5	3
Reed Bunting	7	2	3
Corn Bunting	4	1	1

Acknowledgements

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Honey Buzzard Influx Autumn 2000

Andrew Self



Introduction

An unprecedented influx of Honey Buzzards took place in the UK from late September onwards. This influx began on the East Coast on September 19th with just a couple of individuals but over the next two weeks many hundreds, if not thousands were seen as they continued their migration overland. The first ones in London were seen on September 21st and a maximum of 188 individuals were noted with the last one being seen on October 14th. The vast majority of the birds aged were juveniles. Honey Buzzards were not the only raptors to be caught out by the weather conditions as an Osprey and several Common Buzzards were also seen.

Origin

The sudden mass arrival on the East Coast from Durham to Suffolk on September 20th suggests an origin of Northern Europe. The well known Swedish raptor migration watchpoint of Falsterbo regularly records over 5,000 Honey Buzzards each autumn as they cross the Baltic Sea to continue their journey southward.

A high pressure zone centred over Scandinavia just prior to the start of the arrival into Britain would have created good conditions for Honey Buzzards to begin their journey. However, the strong anti-cyclonic conditions meant that they encountered easterly winds which forced them further west than usual where a front was moving across the North Sea. The associated cloud and rain would

have prevented them continuing their journey southwards so they were then forced to fly southwest - to Britain.

Daily Summary

September 21st

After the large arrival on the East Coast the previous day, e.g. 25 flew south over Gibraltar Point, Lincs and 12 flew south over Spurn, Yorks, the first birds began to arrive in the London Area. A juvenile flew SW over Beddington SF and one flew SE over Amwell GP at 12:30.

September 22nd

None were seen in the morning, then 13 were recorded in a four hour spell from mid-afternoon. All of these were single birds apart from one flock of seven over Regent's Park, the first multiple arrival and the largest of the entire influx in London. Unusually, this flock was reported heading northwards whereas all the other birds seen today were heading either S or SE.

September 23rd

With news of the influx now alerting people, the start of the weekend and the continued movement of Honey Buzzards southwards across the country, there was a dramatic increase in the number of sightings with 33 individuals seen. The first one was at 09:05 and the passage continued until 17:00 with up to seven birds seen an hour. The vast majority of these were heading due south with a few flying either SE or SW. Most sightings were of single birds apart from two over West Ham and three over Hampstead Heath.

September 24th

A quieter day with 12 seen, all of these were in the morning except for a late one at 18:00 over Staines Res. All of today's sightings were of single birds.

September 25th

Although it was back to work for many people, the number of sightings increased with 21 seen today, this was obviously helped by the two observed over the M25 and one from an office window in Wembley where an Osprey was also seen. Most of the sightings were in the morning or around lunchtime with one late bird being seen at 18:30. The only multiple sighting was of two over Tyttenhanger GP. This increase in numbers today was also reflected nationally and suggests another arrival of birds into the UK from across the North Sea.

September 26th

Another lull with ten birds today. All were single sightings except for two over Dagenham at 10:10.

September 27th

A slight increase with 14 sightings, including two birds together at both Richmond Park and Rye Meads, the latter two were accompanied by a Common Buzzard.

September 28th

With the influx into London heading into a second week, there was another increase in sightings with 18 recorded today. The passage lasted all day with sightings from 08:40 to 18:00; multiple records came from Bethnal Green (two) and Beddington SF (three). All birds were heading in a direction between SE and SW except for one which flew N/NE over Vauxhall.

September 29th

Another 11 more birds flew over today, all singles apart from two over Bedfont Lakes CP.

September 30th

The start of another weekend saw a small increase in sightings with 14 today. Apart from one at 12:10 they were all seen in the morning. By now many of the birds which had arrived during the week had found their way to the South Coast where they then crossed the Channel to continue their journey to Africa, for example 62 were seen at Beachy Head, E. Sussex and 37 at Portland, Dorset.

October 1st

In good raptor weather, a total of 27 were reported, the second highest daily total of this influx and the last day of high numbers of Honey Buzzards. The fine conditions led to some birds making an early start with four birds being seen at South Norwood Lake between 07:02 and 07:23. There were several multiple sightings with two together at the latter site, three at Vicarage Farm and four at Hersham GP.

October 2nd

The beginning of the end of the influx with just five sightings of single birds, four of these were seen within 70 minutes during the middle part of the morning.

October 3rd

The first day since the influx started with no birds reported at all.

October 4th

Three sightings today.

October 5th

Three more birds, including two together over Kempton NR late afternoon.

October 6th

The only one today was over Brixton mid-afternoon.

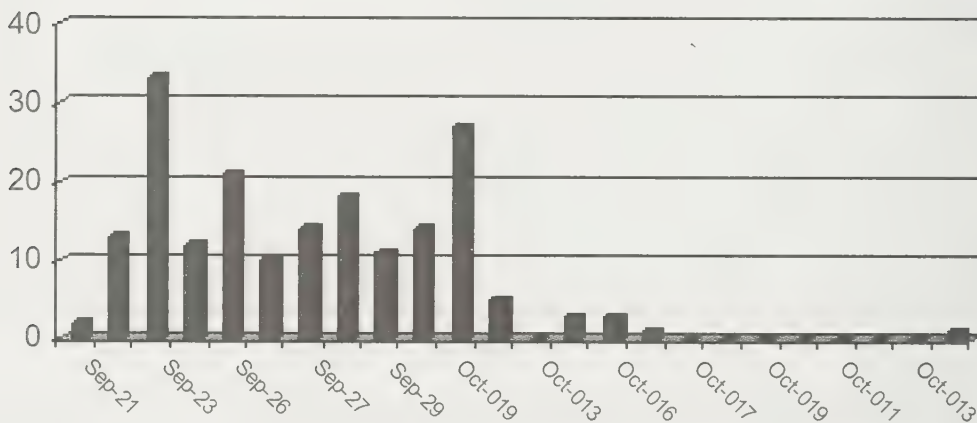
October 14th

Over a week after the last one was a recorded, a very late bird was seen over White City.



Map Showing Distribution of Honey Buzzards in London in Autumn 2000

Honey Buzzards in London, Autumn 2000



Daily Records

All the records of Honey Buzzards that were known to have been seen in the London Area are listed below. Because of the one-off nature of this influx and the large numbers involved there has been no attempt to examine every record as most were submitted without notes. Therefore, comments about the age or sex of the bird(s) involved submitted by the observer have not been verified.

	Site	Comments
21 September	Amwell GP	flew SE at 12:30
	Beddington SF	juvenile flew SW
22 September	Banstead	Pale phase juvenile flew SE at 18.22
	KGV Res	flew S at 14:27
	KGV Res	flew S in afternoon, different individual to above
	M11, Junction 7	flew S at 16:40
	Regent's Park	7 juveniles flew N at 16.55
	Sewardstone	flew S at 17:15
23 September	Sewardstone	flew S at 17:30
	Beddington SF	juvenile flew SW at 11:05
	Beddington SF	juvenile flew SW at 12:30
	Beddington SF	juvenile flew S at 15:45
	Brent Res	flew W at 14:15
	Chessington	flew SW/WSW at 16:45
	Chingford	09:05
	Chingford	09:45
	Chingford	10:05
	Chingford	flew S at 13:25
	Colliers Hatch	1
	Dagenham	flew S at 11:20
	Dagenham Chase	flew S at 16:05
	Eltham Pk /Oxleas Wood	dark juvenile flew SW at 12:05
	Godstone	in morning
	Hampstead Heath	3 at 14:00
	Harefield	flew S at 11:15
	Hilfield Park Res	flew S at 14:50
	Ilford	flew S at 10:55
	KGV Res	also over Hardley Hill
	Putney	flew SW at 11:00
	Putney	14:00
	Sewardstone	flew S at 16:50
Sewardstone	flew S at 17:00	
South Norwood	flew WSW at 11:05	
South Oxhey	13:20	
Waltham Abbey	flew S at 09:17	
Wanstead Park	10:15	
Weald Park	flew S at 11:03	
West Ham	2 flew S at 11:20	
Wimbledon Common	flew SE at 14:20	
24 September	Beddington SF	10:55
	Belvedere	flew S at 11:50
	Brent Res	flew S/SW at 10:45
	Brent Res	flew SW at 12:00
	Brent Res	12:25
	Epping Forest	flew S at 11:22
	Essex Filter Beds	08:30
	Fishers Green	flew SE at 10:45, also over Sewardstone

Hampstead Heath 1
 Nore Hill, Chelsham 09:15
 Queen Mother Res juvenile at 09:05
 Staines Res flew E at 18:00

25 September

Addlestone flew S at 12:32
 Beddington SF 10:55
 Brentwood 11:40
 Cheshunt GP flew S at 11:30
 Chingford flew S at 11:03
 Greenwich 12:55
 Hooley, flew W at 18:30 over M25, Junction 7
 Leatherhead flew over M25, Junction 9 at 13:40
 Nore Hill, Chelsham 10:10
 Regent's Park juvenile flew SE at 13:00
 Richmond Park 12:00
 Richmond Park 13:25
 St Johns Wood flew SW at 09:15
 Selsdon Woods dark morph juvenile at 12.55
 Selsdon Woods adult at 13:30
 Selsdon Woods dark morph juvenile at 13:55
 Tyttenhanger GP 2 at 13:30
 Vicarage Farm, Enfield dark morph flew S at 08:40
 Walton on Thames flew E at 08:30
 Wembley Stadium 11:00

26 September

Amwell GP 1 with a Common Buzzard
 Dagenham 2 flew S at 10:10
 Dartford Bridge early afternoon
 Dartford Heath dark morph at 14:25
 Hersham GP flew S at 10:30
 Prae Wood 1
 Redhill flew W at 18:40 over M25, Junction 7
 Richmond Park flew SW at 12:23
 Sevenoaks flew S at 14:55

27 September

Amwell GP 1
 Denham juvenile
 Harefield flew SW at 11:17
 Petts Wood flew S at 12:15
 Putney 11:05
 Putney juvenile at 14:00
 Richmond Park 10:55
 Richmond Park flew S at 13:48
 Richmond Park 2 flew S at 09:00, 1 dark phase juvenile
 Rye Meads 2 at 09:50 with a Common Buzzard
 S. Kensington flew S at 15:30
 Vicarage Farm, Enfield dark morph flew SE at 11:40

28 September

Amwell GP 12:15
 Beddington SF 2 juv & ad female SE

Beech Farm GP	1
Bethnal Green	2 flew S at 08:40
Chingford	flew S at 14:40
Dagenham Chase	flew S at 16:05
Grays	flew S at 09:00
Nore Hill, Chelsham	14:30
Queen Mother Res	flew S at 18:00
Richmond Park	flew SW at 11:10
Richmond Park	juvenile S at 12:50
Richmond Park	flew SW at 14:00
Shepperton	flew S at 13:50
Shepperton	juvenile at 13:58
Vauxhall	flew N/NE at 12:00

29 September

Warlingham	dark morph juvenile at 10:30
Ham	flew S at 09:30
Kingston	flew S at 10:15
Island Barn Res	flew SW at 10:35
Hounslow Heath	flew S at 10:15
Old Slade Lake	flew SW at 17:50
Barn Elms WWT	flew S at 12:20
Bedfont Lakes CP	2 flew SE at 12:30
Minet Tip	09:30
Orsett Fen	1

30 September

Barnes WWT	flew S at 09:25
Berrylands	dark morph juvenile flew E at 12:10
Epsom Downs	flew SE at 11:30
Epsom Downs	3 flew SE at 11:55
Hainault Forest	flew S at 07:30
Hainault Forest	flew SSW at 08:35
Hampstead Heath	2, one at 07:30, time of 2nd bird n/k
Middlesex Filter Beds	flew S, also over Essex FBs
South Norwood Lake	rufous morph juvenile at 07:58
Thorney CP	flew S
Vicarage Farm, Enfield	Pale phase juvenile flew S at 09:45

1 October

Battersea	1
Beddington SF	1
Belmont	1
Brixton	1
Hersham GP	4 flew S at 12:40
Horsenden Hill	flew S at 11:35
Regent's Park	juvenile flew SW at 11.55
Richmond Park	dark morph juvenile flew S at 10:57
South Norwood Lake	flew SE at 07:02
South Norwood Lake	2 flew SE at 07:12
South Norwood Lake	flew SE at 07:23
South Norwood Lake	flew SW at 13:14
South Norwood Lake	dark morph juvenile flew SSW at 10:09
South Norwood Lake	dark morph juvenile flew S at 14:11
South Oxhey	11:30

	Uxbridge	flew S at 13:20
	Vicarage Farm, Enfield	flew S at 10:10
	Vicarage Farm, Enfield	3 flew S/SW at 10:45)
	Wandsworth	dark morph juvenile flew S at 11:25
	Weald Park	flew S at 11:44
	West Hyde	flew W at 12:30
2 October	Alexandra Palace	flew S at 09:55
	Essex Filter Beds	flew SE at 11:00
	Regent's Park	juvenile flew SE at 10:50
	Sevenoaks Reserve	1
	Wraysbury GP	dark morph flew SE at 10:30
4 October	Beddington SF	dark morph juvenile at 11:15
	Hampstead Heath	2
	Leatherfield	1
5 October	Hampstead Heath	1 in morning
	Kempton Park Res	2 at 16:30
6 October	Brixton	rufous morph juvenile flew WSW at 14:20
14 October	White City	1

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Status of the Canada Goose, the Greylag Goose and other naturalised geese in Greater London, 2000

Helen Baker and Derek Coleman



INTRODUCTION

A national survey of naturalised geese took place in summer 2000 to provide an update on the numbers and distribution of Canada Geese *Branta canadensis*, Greylag Geese *Anser anser*, and other naturalised species in the UK. Delany (1993, 1995) reported on the last national survey in 1991¹.

The 2000 national survey was in two parts. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) organised a survey of geese in randomly selected tetrads. All suitable habitat within the selected tetrads was to be visited twice, the first time between mid-April and mid-May and the second time between mid-June and mid-July and all geese seen were recorded. The second part of the survey was organised by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). It was site based and timed to coincide with the moult when birds were flightless. The aim was for all suitable sites to be covered.

This paper summarises data received for the 10km squares lying wholly or largely in Greater London but excludes the outer part of the LNHS recording area. It draws primarily on the results of the WWT survey but data from the BTO survey are used in a few cases where they supplement the other survey. Data for that part of the area lying within Metropolitan Essex (i.e. east of the River Lea and north of the Thames, but including the river) has kindly been provided by the East London Birding Forum (via Howard Vaughan).

Baker (1992) reported on the 1991 survey in London when 5,037 Canada Geese (including at least 720 juveniles) and 261 Greylag Geese (including 44 juveniles) were recorded. There were also five Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*), three Egyptian Geese (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*), two Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*), one Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*) and six Canada Goose x Greylag hybrids. In addition there were 22 domestic geese, including domestic x Greylag and domestic x Canada Goose hybrids. A survey of Canada Geese in the whole of the LNHS recording area in 1983 had found 1,552 geese including at least 614 juveniles in the Greater London squares (Baker, 1985).

¹ Delany reported that the 1991 survey had found 63,581 Canada Geese, 19,501 Greylag Geese, 906 Egyptian Geese and smaller numbers of 11 other species and hybrids. In addition a total of 473 domestic geese was found, including hybrids. In the majority of cases the domestic goose had paired with a Greylag (the ancestor of most domestic geese) but sometimes the other parent was a Canada Goose.

METHOD

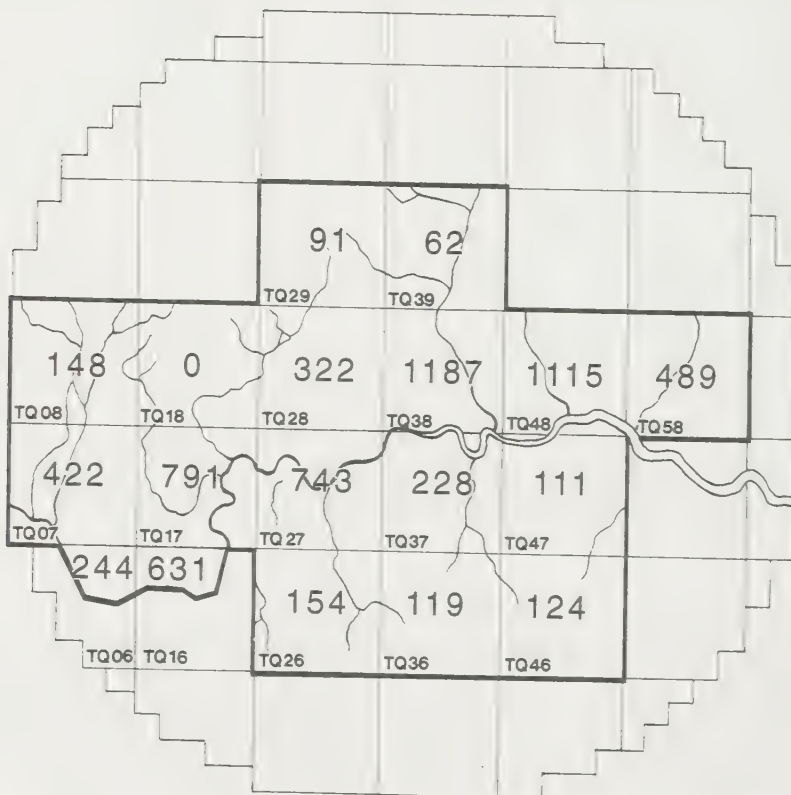
The WWT survey took place between 22 June and 21 July. The methods were similar to those used in the 1991 survey and described by Baker (1992), except that information on ringed, diseased or injured birds was not requested and observers were not required to provide information about habitat. For the BTO survey, the selected tetrad had to be surveyed for adults and juveniles, excluding areas which were obviously quite unsuitable for geese.

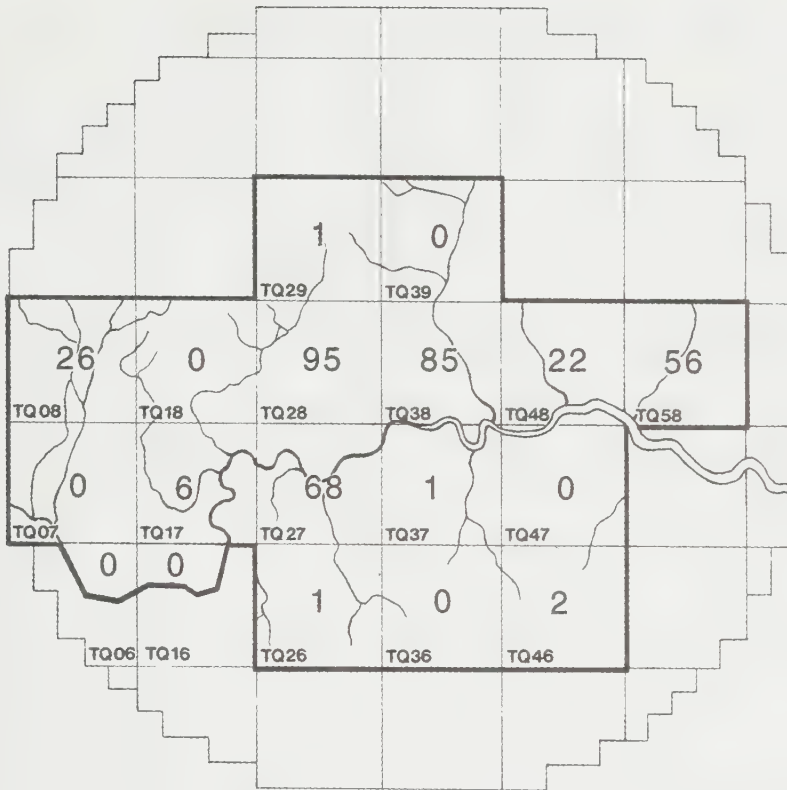
The area covered comprised principally the 10km squares lying wholly or largely in Greater London. In addition, the smaller part of squares TQ06 and TQ16 that falls within Greater London (the River Thames and the area to the north from Hampton Court to Walton-on-Thames) was also surveyed. It should be noted that these two squares were not included in Greater London for the 1991 survey.

RESULTS

The numbers of Canada Geese and Greylag Geese in Greater London in each 10km square are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. Totals of 6,981 Canada Geese (including at least 774 juveniles) and 363 Greylag Geese (including 57 juveniles) were recorded. If counts from the two part-10km squares, TQ06 and TQ16 are excluded, the total number of Canada Geese was 6,106 (including at least 688 goslings). As in 1991, the number of goslings recorded is a minimum number. By late June it is often difficult to separate juveniles from adults. Altogether, 535 Canada Geese were unaged.

Counts for the sites holding more than 100 Canada Geese are summarised in Table 1. These sites held 64% of the total with the largest concentrations at





Walthamstow Reservoirs and along the River Thames between Putney Bridge and Walton-on-Thames.

Table 1. Counts for sites with more than 100 Canada Geese

	Total inc. juveniles	Juveniles
R Thames: Putney Bridge to Hampton Court (TQ16, TQ17, TQ27)	943	43
R Thames: Hampton Court to Walton-on-Thames (TQ16)	356	3
Walthamstow Reservoirs (TQ38)	909	28
Mayesbrook Park (TQ48)	431	20
Finsbury Park (TQ38)	160	13
Brent Reservoir (TQ28)	143	0
Wanstead Flats (TQ48)	140	0
Raphael Park, Romford (TQ58)	131	23
Wimbledon Park (TQ27)	131	25
Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch (TQ58)	125	16
Bedfont and Ashford GPs (TQ07)	119	7
WWT Barn Elms (TQ27)	106	2
Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (TQ28)	105	2
Victoria Park (TQ38)	102	6
	3901	188

No sites held 100 or more Greylag Geese. The highest counts were from Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (91), Walthamstow Reservoirs (56), the River Thames between Chelsea Bridge and Chiswick Bridge (44) and the Belhaus Complex east of Rainham (34). No other site held more than 19 birds.

Several other species of naturalised geese were recorded as well as free-living domestic geese and hybrids. Details of these are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Other naturalised geese, free-living domestic geese and hybrids

<i>Species</i>	<i>Tetrad</i>	<i>Total Number</i>
White-fronted Goose (<i>A. albifrons</i>)	TQ38	1
Bar-headed Goose	TQ07; TQ16; TQ17; TQ27; TQ37	8
Snow Goose	TQ48	22
Swan Goose (<i>A. cygnoides</i>)	TQ38; TQ48	3
Barnacle Goose	TQ27; TQ28	4
Egyptian Goose	TQ06; TQ08; TQ16; TQ17	13
Canada Goose x Greylag Goose	TQ16; TQ27; TQ28; TQ38	7
Emperor Goose (<i>A. canagica</i>) x Snow Goose	TQ38	1
Domestic Goose	TQ07; TQ16; TQ17; TQ26; TQ27; TQ29; TQ38; TQ46; TQ58 (including 1 juv)	48
Domestic Goose x Canada Goose	TQ16; TQ17; TQ38	4
Domestic Goose x Greylag	TQ27; TQ28; TQ37	3
Hybrid (unspecified)	TQ37	2

Comparison with previous surveys

Table 3 compares the number of Canada Geese and goslings recorded in this survey with the numbers found in the two previous surveys on a 10km square basis. It should be noted that the 1983 survey was not strictly comparable with the two later ones as, in that year, counts took place between May 28th and June 19th, before the annual moult.

Table 3. Comparison of the number of Canada Geese and Goslings recorded in 1983, 1991 and 2000 on a 10km square basis.

<i>10km square</i>	<i>Total including Juveniles</i>			<i>Juveniles</i>		
	<i>1983</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1983</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>2000</i>
TQ07	17*	451	422	13*	90	64
TQ08	107*	287	148	75*	4	34
TQ17	382	154*	791	187	61*	52
TQ18	0	0	0	0	0	0
TQ26	6	66	154	4	32	38
TQ27	207	1170	743	70	113	63
TQ28	313	731	322	34	17	17
TQ29	40	97	91	22	29	16
TQ36	26	108	119	13	9	23
TQ37	37	343	28	17	115	14
TQ38	366	1419	1187	163	161	49
TQ39	19	84	62	3	24	12
TQ46	0	54	124	0	27	31
TQ47	2	56	111	0	27	21
TQ48	23	17	1115	8	11	127
TQ58	7	nc	489	5	nc	127
TOTAL	1552	5037	6106'	614	720	470'

* coverage in these 10km squares was incomplete.

nc indicates no count was made in these 10km squares

' note that these totals exclude the 875 Canada geese (including at least 86 juveniles) in those parts of TQ06 and TQ16 covered by the survey.

Coverage in two squares (TQ17 and TQ58) was known to be incomplete in the 1991 survey. In the squares where coverage was considered comparable, there were 4866 Canada Geese in 1991 and 4824 in 2000. Five squares showed increases and eight showed decreases. TQ18 had no geese recorded in either survey. All the squares showing increases had less than 110 birds in 1991, while six of the eight squares showing declines held more than 250 birds in 1991. Overall the numbers showed no evidence of change (a decline of 1%). However, TQ48 showed a dramatic increase from 17 to 1115 birds and, if this square is excluded, there was a decline of 24%. It is possible that coverage in TQ48 was incomplete in 1991.

If the three squares, TQ17, TQ48 and TQ58 are excluded, the four most central squares (TQ27, TQ28, TQ37 and TQ38) held 75% of the Canada Geese in London in 1991. There has been a decline of 32% in these squares, which now hold 66% of the geese. In the outer London squares, there is little evidence of change (an increase of 2%). In 1991, the inner London parks featured prominently in the top sites (four were in the top six) while in 2000, only Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens featured and it came low in the list. The Thames attracted large numbers of Canada Geese in 2000 and, assuming that coverage of TQ48 in the 1991 survey was good, there has been a dramatic increase in east London between the two surveys.

Table 4 compares the number of Greylag Geese with the numbers found in 1991. Since the 1991 survey the Greylag Goose has expanded its range eastwards (although it should be remembered that in 1991 no information was available for TQ58 where 56 birds were recorded in the 2000 survey). In 1991 232 out of the total of 261 Greylag Geese (i.e. 89%) were concentrated in three 10km squares, (TQ27, TQ28 and TQ38). In 2000 the number of geese counted in these squares was virtually unchanged at 248 but there had been a significant

Table 4. Comparison of number of Greylag Geese in 1991 and 2000

<i>10km Square</i>	<i>Total in 1991</i>	<i>Total in 2000 inc. juvs</i>	<i>Juvs 2000</i>
TQ07	1	0	0
TQ08	25	26	15
TQ17	0*	6	2
TQ18	0	0	0
TQ26	2	1	0
TQ27	158	68	9
TQ28	42	95	0
TQ29	0	1	0
TQ36	0	0	0
TQ37	0	1	0
TQ38	32	85	21
TQ39	0	0	0
TQ46	1	2	0
TQ47	0	0	0
TQ48	0	22	3
TQ58	nc	56	7
TOTAL	261	363	57

* coverage in this 10km square was incomplete

nc indicates no count was made in these 10km squares

redistribution of the moulting geese with the majority using Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens and Walthamstow Reservoirs while at St James's Park, their former stronghold, there were just 10.

There has been an increase in the number of other species of geese recorded in the area. Particularly noteworthy was a flock of 22 Snow Geese at Southmere, south of Thamesmead, (TQ48) and the increase in the number of Egyptian geese from 3 in 1991 to 17. The number of domestic geese (including hybrids where one parent was a domestic goose) has more than doubled from 22 to 55. In contrast, the number of hybrids not involving domestic geese has shown little change.

Discussion

In reports on the previous surveys Baker (1985 and 1992) predicted that Canada Geese would continue to spread in the London area until all suitable habitats were occupied and numbers would continue to increase unless control measures were taken. They have now colonised the eastern part of the area where only a small number had been located in previous surveys. Numbers in these 10km squares have increased to such an extent that four of the sites holding a hundred or more Canada Geese are in this area, including Mayesbrook Park where there were 431.

It is possible that in some areas where suitable nesting habitat is limited, the geese have reached the carrying capacity. However, in central London parks control measures have been taken. It is probable that measures such as egg pricking or habitat changes have been used to make other water-bodies less attractive to geese. Such factors no doubt account for the levelling off or decline in numbers at some former strongholds and also for the comparatively small numbers of juveniles recorded.

In 2000, a large number of Canada Geese were found along the river Thames from Putney Bridge to Walton-on-Thames. It is possible that they are making more use of the river and it may perhaps be used by non-breeding and failed breeders as the principal moulting site in the London area. Other sites may have become less attractive to them because of habitat changes. However, it should be noted that in 2000 the stretch from Lambeth Bridge to Hampton Court was covered by boat and the Thames path was then followed to Walton-on-Thames. This had not been done during previous surveys and the number along the river may in the past have been underestimated. Also, as mentioned above, coverage in TQ17 was incomplete in 1991. Nonetheless it is clear that the Thames is very important for moulting geese in London.

Greylags are continuing to spread but will be affected by changes in park management to make the sites less suitable for geese. This will also apply to the other naturalised species. It is possible that they may be at a disadvantage when competing for nest sites with the larger Canada Goose but it appears that they may be able to utilise slightly different nesting habitat (Sanderson, 2003).

Conclusion

It is probable that Canada Geese have colonised most of the sites in London which are suitable for them and where measures have not been taken to discourage them. Since 1991, there has been a marked increase in the eastern part of the area and a decline in the inner London parks. Now that all areas have been colonised, the intensity of active control is likely to be the key to future numbers. Greylag Geese and the other naturalised species will be held in check by goose-unfriendly management regimes but, unless egg-pricking is made legal for these species, it seems probable that there will be some increase in numbers.

Acknowledgements

This survey would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers including most of the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) counters and those who undertake Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS). We are very grateful to all of them. We thank Howard Vaughan for making the data for Metropolitan Essex available to us.

Finally we are very grateful to Ken Osborne for undertaking the artwork and for producing the illustration for this paper.

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Autumn Bird Counts in Kensington Gardens, 1925 – 2000

R.F. Sanderson

Introduction

The sixth Autumn count of the birds in Kensington Gardens took place on Nov 4th 2000. The count was special as it was the 75th anniversary of the very first count of land birds in Britain, undertaken by Max Nicholson and his brother in Kensington Gardens on Nov 2nd and 4th 1925. (Nicholson, 1995.) Max, at 96, honoured us with his presence during the count. A TV camera crew was there to record the event and also interviewed him.

Following weeks of very wet weather, the bright sunny day that greeted the six counters was welcome. The temperature reached 9°C by midday with a light breeze. Weather conditions favoured bird migration and there is evidence that the count benefited from this. Three teams of two people, all with experience of bird-watching in London, simultaneously counted sections of the park, noting any overflying birds on a map for later analysis, to reduce the chances of double-counting. The count was completed between 9.30am and noon, with a total of 15 man hours of fieldwork.

The results were mixed. Table 7 shows that the number of species counted was a record 49, but the number of birds counted was the lowest of the six counts at 1278 (excluding feral Rock Doves). Tables 1 to 6 compare the count with the five counts made between 1925 and 1995.

The Gardens

Kensington Gardens are the third largest of the Central London parks, covering an area of 115.8 hectares (286 acres), of which some four hectares is water (the Long Water and the Round Pond). The Gardens are rectangular with a perimeter of almost 5 kms. They are bounded to the West by Kensington Palace and to the East by Hyde Park. From there, a green corridor, comprising the Green and St James's Parks, extends almost to the River Thames. Approximately 4% of the Gardens is set aside as enclosed shrubberies. The Gardens are well-wooded: tree canopy covers some 42% of the area. These combine to give the Gardens a certain tranquillity, more formal than the wider open expanse of adjoining Hyde Park. Dutch elm disease followed by the severe storms in 1987 and, to a lesser extent, 1990, resulted in the loss of thousands of trees. However, an extensive tree planting programme, begun in the 1970s has helped to retain the well-wooded character of the park.

Table 1. Aquatic species

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
Little Grebe				1		1
Great Crested Grebe				5	1	3
Cormorant				2	4	
Grey Heron				1	2	4
Mute Swan			2	5	13	75
Canada Goose			34	59	116	45
Greylag Goose					43	119
Gadwall	1					
Mallard	240	81	129	246	29	43
Pochard	16	18		13	6	5
Red-crested Pochard						7
Tufted Duck	7	77	126	142	42	79
Shoveler					9	9
Moorhen	26	10	19	20	15	22
Coot			17	29	18	61
Black-headed Gull	289	618	709	251	219	97
Common Gull		40		16	8	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1	2	2	2	17
Herring Gull		1		1		32
Grey Wagtail					1	1
Pied Wagtail	1		1	11	10	1
Total birds counted	580	846	1039	802	536	628
Number of species	7	8	9	15	17	20

(Area of Long Water and Round Pond approximately 4 hectares).

As a group, aquatic birds fluctuate most in numbers between the nesting season and the autumn. The latest (1996) breeding season census showed just 33 nesting pairs (Sanderson, 1999). Seven species nested in 1996, but 20 species were present at the November 2000 census, totalling over 600 birds. The build-up of autumn numbers starts with the offspring from nesting Tufted Duck, Coot and Mallard, though the survival rate is not good with predation by Herring Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Crows.

Goose numbers build from August, with influxes from other parks. Control measures, in the form of egg-pricking, in the Royal Parks have been very successful in reducing Canada Geese from over 500 in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens in 1987 to around 100. This method of control is not so easy for Greylag Geese as they often nest away from water in shrubberies and even in trees: so from being seen infrequently in the 1980s, Central London now has a wintering flock of Greylags in excess of 200 birds. Black-headed Gulls start to arrive in July, but September sees the biggest influx. They roost away from the park, so numbers fluctuate throughout the day and are also influenced by the weather conditions and food availability.

The count was quite successful at picking up other recently observed trends in numbers. The Round Pond has become home for unprecedented numbers of Mute Swan. The count of 75 is truly representative of numbers in recent years. Darvic rings show that most were hatched along the Thames. They spend much of the day grazing and grooming, and are fed huge amounts of bread, a totally unsuitable diet. Dogs are a major problem with several swans being killed or injured every year.

Numbers of the larger gulls have increased but the count of 32 Herring Gulls was probably a park record. Some gulls are believed to nest nearby on buildings, as quite young Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been seen on the Serpentine and Round Pond in the last few years.

Other trends picked up on the census include Cormorant and Shoveler, both regular wintering species since the mid-1970s, and the more recent appearance of Red-crested Pochard. This last species reflects increasing movement by ducks hatched in St James's Park which are no longer pinioned: now that its hatching facilities have been removed, eggs and recently hatched young cannot be accommodated on Duck Island. Many ducklings are predated, but inevitably some 'escape'.

There have not been any further outbreaks of botulism on the Long Water, the major cause of lower duck numbers in the 1995 census (Sanderson, 1995). Both Tufted and Mallard counts have improved since 1995, but whereas Tufted Duck numbers are also influenced by winter visitors from Scandinavia, still arriving in November, Mallard are largely sedentary and their numbers remain well below past norms for the park.

Overall the census shows a continuing increase in the number of aquatic species present in Kensington Gardens in Autumn. In the group only the Mallard count is below expectations – the increase in the predatory gull population may be a contributory factor.

Table 2. Largely resident, shrub-related species

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
Goldcrest			4	2	16	
Wren	6		3	13	6	6
Duncock	6	8	8	17	4	2
Robin	16	7	5	14	26	27
Blackbird	21	99	250	191	111	92
Song Thrush	4		16	7	2	2
Long-tailed Tit				11	27	61
Coal Tit	3	3	5	3	5	6
Blue Tit	37	16	15	45	45	45
Great Tit	19	22	16	13	24	25
Chaffinch	10	7	1	6		5
Greenfinch	2		1	10	5	2
Goldfinch				2	1	
Total birds counted	124	162	320	334	259	290
Number of species	10	7	10	12	12	13

(Area of shrubberies approximately 4.2 hectares).

This group of species can be seen in Kensington Gardens throughout the year, and all except Goldfinch and Goldcrest regularly nest in the park.

Generally, maintenance work on the shrubberies is done outside the nesting season to minimize disturbance. Some areas, for example, the Long Water Sanctuary and the Leaf Yard, have been left undisturbed by the gardeners for many years. The Flower Walk, the most visited part of Kensington Gardens away from the lakes, has gardeners busy for most of the year – and yet has the highest density of breeding birds in the park.

The census shows apparent stability for most species. Mixed tit flocks produced high counts for both Long-tailed Tits and Goldcrests. The latter may have included migrants from the Continent. Blackbird seems to have a worrying downward trend, with increasing evidence that, in the absence of Sparrows, Sparrowhawks are now predated Blackbirds. Dunnock and Song Thrush, which had both showed significant reductions in 1995, have, so far, failed to recover.

Table 3. Mainly woodland species

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
Sparrowhawk				1	2	1
Kestrel	1		1	2		
Stock Dove				1		
Wood Pigeon	241	5	56	386	159	97
Tawny Owl		1		1		1
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	1			1		1
Green Woodpecker						2
Mistle Thrush	3	12	4	4	8	5
Nuthatch				1	1	3
Treecreeper		1		2	1	
Jay		11	4	8	8	10
Magpie				8	27	12
Jackdaw	2	2	1			
Carrion Crow	5	2	20	52	92	142
Starling	411	22	82	148	182	62
Total birds counted	664	56	168	614	480	337
Number of species	7	8	7	12	9	12

The 2000 census shows two additional woodland species. The Green Woodpecker had been seen occasionally in 1994 and 1995 and became a new breeding species for Kensington Gardens in 1999. Stock Doves have probably nested in the park at least since the 1920s, but they are extremely secretive and difficult to locate.

The total number of birds was influenced by a significant fall in the Starling count and the continuing rise in Crow numbers – making it the second most numerous species in the 2000 census (after feral Rock Doves).

Table 4

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
House sparrow	2603	885	642	544	81	8

The House sparrow, a versatile species, used to be found in all habitats in the park, predominantly where they were likely to be fed by the public. By the 1995 census they were confined to three areas – Long Water Sanctuary, Flower Walk and the sunken garden adjoining Kensington Palace. The 2000 census showed just eight secretive sparrows in shrubberies by the Orangery, the area where six pairs had nested that year. For some time sparrows in the park have rarely waited out in the open for the public to throw bread for them. When they do take food, they come out of the shrubberies and shoot back into cover immediately afterwards, certainly not the tame behaviour of the traditional sparrow. This change suggests concern about predation. A few sparrows, seen

during 2000 under the glass canopy of Hay's Galleria on the south bank of the Thames, were still tame, feeding under the chairs and tables of diners and perching out in the open. Clearly the canopy protects them from predators. The change of behaviour in Kensington Gardens seems to have coincided with the arrival of the Sparrowhawk, early in the 1990s.

The focus on the declining sparrow population in cities, makes it appropriate to summarise what we already know about its probable causes. Between the 1925 and 1948 censuses in the park, some quite dramatic changes would have affected the sparrow population. It was thought in 1925 that the great majority of sparrows wintering in Kensington Gardens were bred outside, some perhaps coming in from the edges of London as autumn gleanings in the fields were exhausted (Nicholson, 1995). The enormous and rapid spread of suburbs in the 1930s would, therefore, have affected sparrow numbers, as the distance to open country lengthened. A reduction in horse traffic in the streets, with less spilled grain and fewer stables, reduced local food availability. Other possible factors include the war, and bread rationing – fewer park visitors bringing in much less food. November 1925 had been one of the coldest on record – almost certainly creating a temporary rise in sparrows in the park, with food plentiful and the temperature less cold in central London. Between the 1948 and 1975 counts sparrows lost nesting sites. Buildings neglected during and shortly after the war were renovated, destroying sites under eaves or inside roof spaces. For example, in Kensington Gardens the author noted a shelter on Buck Hill with 50 sparrow nests under its eaves and in its roof space during the 1966 breeding census. It was refurbished shortly afterwards and all those nest sites were lost.

In percentage terms, the steepest fall in the sparrow population in Kensington Gardens began in the mid-1970s. It is around that time that sparrow numbers began to fall in the countryside, further reducing the chance of inward movements to replenish central London stocks.

In the twenty years to the count in 1995 numbers fell from 544 to 81. Increased predation was probably a major factor. Magpies arrived in central London in 1971 and crows continued to increase. Both species are generally aggressive to sparrows during the breeding season. If they predated most of the young birds hatched each year, and fewer birds replenished the local population from outside London, sparrow numbers would fall dramatically. To compound the problem, Sparrowhawks started to nest in the area in the 1990s and they predate sparrows much more efficiently than the Kestrel they replaced. In 1999 a gardener saw five sparrows taken by a Sparrowhawk in the Kensington Palace area of the park.

A study of a Sparrowhawk nest in a private garden within the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Giddens, 1996) produced quite alarming data about House Sparrows. The adult Sparrowhawks reared five young and, whilst the chicks were in the nest, pellets and prey items found beneath the adult male's plucking post and underneath the nest itself were analysed. Prey items included 38 House Sparrows, predominantly adult males at first, then mainly juveniles (as females would have been on nests in June). This represented over half the prey items found, although larger prey items, caught later by the female Sparrowhawk as the chicks grew, may have been consumed away from the garden (Giddens,

1996). Between 1995 and 1998 Sparrowhawks breeding or probably breeding in inner London rose from one to four pairs (London Bird Reports).

Other factors may have contributed to the reduction. In central London, the first park to lose sparrows was St. James's Park. Predation is much less of a problem there, with no Magpies, fewer Crows and Sparrowhawks still rare. Pollution from vehicle exhausts has been suggested as a possible factor, killing the insects needed by sparrows during their first few weeks. While this is a possibility, no dead nestlings were found in any of the nestboxes used in 2000 in Kensington Gardens or Regent's Park. Another possible culprit is the feral Rock Dove. Sparrows, and to a lesser extent Starlings, used to feed among the hordes of pigeons, snatching and flying off with pieces of bread. Is it possible for cross-infection to have taken place? The major prey items in a Sparrowhawk nest in Buckingham Palace Garden in 2000 were Blackbirds and Pigeons. After several Sparrowhawk deaths in the parks in 2000, a fresh corpse taken to the Institute of Zoology for examination was found to be heavily infected with Trichomoniasis, a parasite carried by pigeons.

Table 5. Migratory species

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
Snipe				1		
Woodcock				1		
Skylark	11		2			
Redwing				8		5
Fieldfare						8
Brambling					2	
Redpoll				15		
Total birds counted	11			25	2	15
Number of species	1			3	2	3

November was chosen for the original count as trees would be leafless, making it easier to count birds. Birds are also arriving from the continent, to winter here or move on further south. November 4th 2000 was the first dry, almost windless day for some time and many migratory birds took advantage of it. In addition to the Redwings, Fieldfares and Bramblings seen in the trees, other birds were seen flying over. These were: 20 Redwing, seven Chaffinch, nine Starling, one Greenfinch, one Grey Wagtail and 245 Woodpigeon. They are not included in the tables.

Table 6

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
Feral Rock Dove	no count	66	619	no count	919	587

Max Nicholson thinks the 1925 and 1948 counts would have probably have been similar (Nicholson, 1995). Counts by the author of feral pigeons in November, 1969 and November, 1970 of 860 and 1130 birds respectively suggest a 1975 count would have been probably about 1000. Most of the pigeons congregate by the gates to the park and at the Round Pond, where the public are most likely to feed them. Numbers grew rapidly between the 1948 count and the 1970s, but more recently appear to have fallen back. Westminster

City Council's decision to ban sellers of corn from Trafalgar Square, in an effort to reduce pigeon numbers there, may displace birds into the parks.

Table 7. Summary of Autumn bird censuses of Kensington Gardens

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
Aquatic species (Table 1)						
number	580	846	1039	802	536	628
species	(7)	(8)	(9)	(15)	(17)	(20)
Shrub dependent species (Table 2)						
number	124	162	320	334	259	290
species	(10)	(7)	(10)	(12)	(12)	(13)
Woodland species (Table 3)						
number	664	56	168	614	480	337
species	(7)	(8)	(7)	(12)	(9)	(12)
House Sparrow (Table 4)						
number	2603	885	642	544	81	8
species	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Migratory species (Table 5)						
number	11			25	2	15
species	(1)			(3)	(2)	(3)
Total birds counted	3982	1949	2169	2319	1358	1278
Number of species	(26)	(24)	(27)	(43)	(41)	(49)

Totals exclude feral Rock Dove (Table 6)

Approximate total area of Kensington Gardens 116 hectares.

Conclusions

Popular interest in the 2000 census, the reason that attracted members of the press and TV cameras, was to confirm that House Sparrows have virtually disappeared from central London. Following data from our 1995 census and subsequent reports of no sparrows in St James's Park, The Independent newspaper had run articles inviting members of the public to participate. It generated great interest, with many ideas put forward. Probably a number of factors contributed, and maybe something has not yet been identified. It is a pity that there was a twenty year gap before the 1995 census, just at the time of greatest change in sparrow numbers. While additional counts may not have solved the problem, they would have enabled us to react sooner, and given more time to identify the needs of the urban sparrow.

Once again the value of a regular census of an area has been shown. The 2000 census shows the highest number of species, with increases in all its habitats over the last five years. Aquatic, woodland and shrubbery-dependent birds show the highest species counts over the 75 years. As to numbers, if the volatile Woodpigeon and Black-headed Gull numbers are excluded from the totals, the 2000 census shows a reduction over the peak count (in 1975) of just over 5%. Over the period of the censuses there have been far more gains than losses, but we must not be complacent – as we have seen with the sparrow, the unexpected

can happen. Twenty of the species counted were represented by fewer than half-a-dozen individuals and it is important, if we want to maintain a diverse population of birds in London, that due consideration is given to their needs by protecting their habitats, when further pressures are placed on park management for yet more public events.

Mammals

For the record, mammals were also counted (not nocturnal species).

	1925	1948	1966	1975	1995	2000
Grey squirrel	21			10	85	90
Brown rat						2

Summary of counts and counters

1925	November 2nd (and 4th) (E.M. & B.D. NICHOLSON), (NICHOLSON, 1995).
1948	December 19th (S. CRAMP & W.G. TEAGLE), (CRAMP & TEAGLE, 1950).
1966	December 19th (R. SANDERSON, D. BOYD, J.P. WIDGERY & P. BALL), (SANDERSON, 1968).
1975	November 2nd (E.M. NICHOLSON, SIR CON O'NEIL, R. SANDERSON & P. BALL), (NICHOLSON, 1995).
1995	November 14th (R.F. SANDERSON, G. GIDDENS & C. RAYMOND) (SANDERSON, 1995).
2000	November 2nd (R.F. SANDERSON, G. GIDDENS, T. DUCKETT, MARIE GILL, C. RAYMOND & D. BOYD).

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Birds of Rainham Marshes – PART 4

M. K. Dennis

Introduction

The area known to most birdwatchers as Rainham Marsh extends from the C2C railway line in the north to the River Thames in the south, incorporating the whole of the Coldharbour Peninsula, and from the River Ingrebourne in the west to the Mar Dyke in the east. (Noble 1971) Although this paper primarily addresses the part designated as a SSSI it brings together observations made between 1960 and 2000 for the whole 'greater' Rainham Marshes site. (Appendix III). The paper completes the sequence of papers on the site (Noble 1971, Dennis 1982, Dennis 1991) to present a picture of the area immediately prior to the purchase of much of the SSSI by the RSPB in July 2000. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) had closed its firing ranges – used since the 19th century - and no longer needed the land.

Habitat areas

The whole area is shown in Figure 1. It comprises the following habitat areas (Henderson 1999):

Rainham North and Rainham South - bisected by the new A13, are low lying rank grassland crossed by several watercourses with extensive reed beds. Rainham South has the greater diversity of species and the larger area. Both areas were grazed until the early 1980s and were subjected to substantial misuse from unauthorized motorcycling until the mid 1990s.

The wedge - northernmost parts of the silt lagoons, cut off by the new A13 and completely dry and covered by rank vegetation. Some watercourses and reedbeds run parallel to the railway. The area is currently heavily disturbed by construction work for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.



Figure 1. Sketch map of Rainham Marshes.

Silt lagoons - nine lagoons running north to south, offering a variety of habitats from open water to rank vegetation. Seven older lagoons are currently used in their southern sections – the northern parts are covered with rank vegetation and get most of their water from rainfall. Two newer lagoons are pumped with Thames mud and silt from outlet pipes at the Coldharbour Lane end. Spoil banks consisting of chalk, flints shells and driftwood have built up at the pipe outlet end of the lagoons. An extensive reed bed has become established in the southern sections of these. Watercourses fringed with reed take the brackish water back to the Thames and are not linked with the rest of the predominantly freshwater of the SSSI.

Wennington and Aveley Marshes - low-lying grassland crossed by numerous watercourses and reed beds with an extensive flooded area established in 1998. Cattle now intensively graze this section.

Mar Dyke corridor - this is an area of secondary woodland and scrub established alongside the Mar Dyke, probably originating from planting around old MoD buildings. As this has matured it has created a habitat that is rather limited in the area.

Aveley Bay – includes an extensive area of saltings and mudflats along the River Thames.

Enclosed Bay - the building of the new river wall in the early 1980s isolated this area of saltings. Plans are being drawn up to partially flood this with Thames water to create a brackish lagoon.

Coldharbour Peninsula - was used variously as a Victorian landfill, allotments and silt lagoons. Cleanaway uses it currently for extensive landfill operations, and part of the landfill tax levied helped to pay for the new RSPB reserve. At present, part of the tip is covered with grassland and other rank vegetation. The foreshore has small areas of remnant saltings and mud the most important of which are around the old concrete barges and off Frog 'Island.'

Factory area - much of the former Murex factory site was demolished in 1999, leaving an open space covered with numerous shallow pools. Other factory areas line both Coldharbour and Ferry Lanes.

The River Thames – the meandering tidal river has large tidal fluctuations, which can bring the river right up to the lower part of the river wall and over the footpath. Off Coldharbour Point there is almost complete equilibrium between fresh and salt water according to the tide and river flow.

Interchange with other sites

There is considerable movement of birds to and from other local sites, particularly the Ingrebourne Valley and the Mar Dyke. Rainham Marshes is of particular importance in hard weather, when other local wetland sites are frozen. The slightly brackish conditions prevent some areas freezing completely while, in very severe weather, the slightly less adverse conditions of the saline River

Thames and the tip area can be a vital lifesaver for waders and passerines in particular. The Thames is also an important avian highway, with birds moving up and down the river and stopping off at the site for roosting and feeding.

Evolution of the habitat

The low lying grazing marsh that makes up most of the site was radically changed in the 1960s, when lagoons for Thames silt were constructed by the Port of London Authority. These lagoons were initially on the land bordering the River Thames, but from 1968 were extended over the eastern part of Rainham Marshes from Coldharbour Lane to the railway. When pumped regularly, these silt lagoons created a mixture of habitats from open water, through shallow pools and drying mud, to sea aster covered tanks. As one was filled, the others were colonised in rotation by a variety of wetland and marshland species as the different conditions prevailed. In 1980, two more silt lagoons were added to the series on the western part of Wennington Marsh. The older Thames-side silt lagoons were phased out as they become silted up and overgrown.

Pumping of Thames silt on a regular basis recommenced in 2000, first on the new lagoons, and then on the older silt lagoons. By autumn 2000, this had created several deep flooded lagoons very suitable for duck and waders. The intention is for regular pumping, carefully timed to be outside the main waterfowl breeding season, combined with extraction of silt for landfill capping, giving a yearly cycle of different habitat conditions on the newer silt lagoons. Future plans include restoration of the older lagoons to create a further mosaic of wetland habitats.

The other Thames-side parts of the Coldharbour Peninsula have been heavily used for rubbish disposal since Victorian times. Since the mid-1980s, the landfill operations have been largely controlled by Cleanaway and the landfill site has expanded, infilling much of the older silt lagoons. In late 1999, new landfill operations began on the existing Victorian tip to the east of the current site. Extraction of material for capping the western landfill area has created pools that have been utilised by breeding and passage birds in particular. In 2000 work began on infilling these pool areas, but eventually a small scrape area will be established on this western sector of the site when it is restored to form a new riverside country park.

The rest of the site has been used as a typical grazing marsh. Both cattle and sheep were grazed on Rainham Marsh until the late 1970s, when the area was sold to Havering Council. Cattle continued to be grazed on Wennington Marsh until the mid-1990s, when the firing range was closed by the MoD. Hay was cut on a regular basis and stored for use as winter feed at a smallholding on the southwest corner of the marsh. Sheep were grazed until the mid-1990s on Aveley Marsh, creating a typical close-cropped sward. Grazing was re-introduced in the late 1990s, but was limited to cattle and some horses on both Wennington and Aveley sections of the site.

Pressures and recent habitat management.

The new A13 (Rainham bypass) was constructed between 1996 and 1999. The initial effect was the loss of breeding territories of mainly grassland species.

Although most have since been absorbed, relocated or re-established, there has been fragmentation of some populations (including Skylark, Grey Partridge and Meadow Pipit), while the road itself has become a barrier to others (for example feeding territories of Short-eared Owls). In summer 2000, work began on the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), which will run parallel to the existing C2C railway entering the site on Aveley Marsh via a viaduct to the northwest of the Aveley pools. At present most of the service piping and basic infrastructure has been completed and heavy-duty work began early in 2002. Parts of Ferry Lane and Coldharbour Lane have also had significant improvements during 2002/3. This has involved widening and straightening the roads and the creation of a drainage channel on the Rainham Marsh side of Coldharbour Lane. The pipe carrying the silt to the silt lagoons was relocated during the summer of 2003 to a new line west of the tip with a point of entry on the southwestern section of the original silt lagoons. This is to accommodate new landfill operations on the tip. In addition to the incursions for the road and rail construction and ambitions for 'development', the area suffered other pressures, particularly during the 1990s. Unauthorised motorcycling was a problem on Rainham and Wennington Marshes, with much disturbance to breeding waders. This has largely been curbed following the re-introduction of grazing, but still remains an intrusion, particularly on the river wall at Aveley Bay. Use of the site by falconry groups, although largely confined to Rainham Marsh and the silt lagoons, can occur on the whole site. Disturbance to waders, duck, gamebirds and owls is high, and usually at its greatest intensity from October to the end of February. With active management of much of the site by the RSPB, this should be less of a pressure in years to come.

In response to actual and threatened changes of use of the area there have, since 1997, been several initiatives to maintain the habitats in an optimum way for the benefit of breeding species in particular. Wet grazing marsh species have been the primary target, with waders and duck being the prime candidates for active habitat management. One of the first priorities was the restoration of grazing, achieved on Wennington and Aveley Marshes. Some 200 head of cattle are now grazed in rotation to achieve a diversity of habitats. In addition, the central flood area on Aveley and Wennington is fenced to exclude cattle during the breeding season. Water level management has also been put in place, and this has effectively conserved the water levels on this part of the site. In late 2001 the RSPB began extensive dyke management work, to create a new water system bordering the reserve on Aveley Marsh. Since 2000 there has been a problem with excess water backing up across the whole site, particularly when the silt lagoons are being pumped, but here again the RSPB is working closely with the pumping company to overcome any difficulties.

Birds of the 1980s

Although most birds on the site up to the mid-1980s were typical of many other sites on estuarine and coastal Essex, the whole area had been enhanced by the silt lagoons and their associated diverse habitats. In winter they attracted duck and waterfowl, with Teal (4,000), Shoveler (100) and Pintail (150) the most important. The lagoons also supported passage waders including (maximum

counts in brackets): Little Stint (70) Curlew Sandpiper (50) Greenshank (50+) Common Sandpiper (100) and Green Sandpiper (50+). Up to 400 Ringed Plover, 1000 Dunlin and 200 Snipe also roosted. Breeding species included Little Ringed and Ringed Plovers, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Redshank, Shelduck, Teal, Shoveler, Gadwall and occasional Snipe.

In winter, finches and buntings were attracted by the vast sea aster beds on the vegetated lagoons, including three-figure flocks of Brambling, Twite, Reed Bunting, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Chaffinch and Greenfinch. Bearded Tit flocks were among the largest in London, peaking at over 50. Bunting and finch flocks were also attracted to the hay used as winter forage on Wennington Marsh. Such large numbers of wintering passerines soon attracted raptors. Hen Harriers were regular winter visitors from the late 1970s to the late 1980s, with up to five birds on occasion. Short-eared Owls also increased to a maximum of 17, most of which hunted over the silt lagoons and Rainham Marsh sections of the site.

The grazing marsh held important numbers of breeding Lapwing and Redshank, most of the latter being increasingly confined to the easternmost parts of the site. Numerous reed-filled watercourses attracted many breeding Reed and Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats. The site also became the main Essex breeding area for Stonechats, with up to 17 pairs scattered throughout, but mainly on Rainham Marsh. Whinchats bred regularly, particularly on the sheep-grazed portions of Aveley Marsh. Summering Short-eared Owls may have bred in the late 1980s on Rainham Marsh and on the vegetated silt lagoons. Other typical breeding birds included Meadow Pipit, Skylark, Yellow Wagtail and Grey Partridge. Appendix II gives figures for 1986.

Birds using the River Thames and associated foreshore diversified as the river improved during the 1960s and 1970s. Duck and waders using both Aveley Bay and parts of the Coldharbour Peninsula increased, while the presence of sea duck and divers in the river confirmed the cleaner conditions in the last two decades.

Birds since 1990

Changes in habitat described above have changed the importance of the site for some species. Appendix I describes key species using the whole site in the late 1990s. Appendix II lists breeding birds. Until the mid-1980s, the silt lagoons were the main attraction for large numbers of passage and wintering. As these became largely disused and vegetated, the main passage and wintering emphasis shifted: first to the area south of Coldharbour Lane (on the pools created by extraction for landfill capping) and latterly to the managed flood area on Aveley Marsh. Over 20 species of wader used this part of the site during recent spring and autumn passage periods.

Since the mid-1980s, the site has increased in importance for its variety of breeding birds, especially wildfowl including Shelduck, Teal, Shoveler and Gadwall; Coot; Little Grebe; waders such as Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe. It has considerable populations of breeding passerines, which have benefited from the increasing 'wildness' of the site compared with surrounding areas. Regionally important populations of Skylark, Reed Bunting, Stonechat, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat now breed on site, and occasional breeders

such as Grasshopper Warbler have become regular breeding birds since the mid 1990s. In 1996-2000, between 50 and 60 species bred or attempted to breed (Henderson 1999).

On the negative side, wintering flocks of finches, buntings and Bearded Tit have largely disappeared, as have the Hen Harriers. This is due in part to the decline of the sea aster beds as the lagoons have dried out and the change from hay to root crops as winter feed for the cattle. However, both Merlin and Peregrine have increased, and summering Hobbies and Marsh Harriers are much more frequent, reflecting national trends. While wintering Teal numbers are slightly below those in the 1980s, other duck, including Shoveler, Wigeon and Gadwall, are much more numerous, with the pools on Aveley Marsh attracting increased numbers from the 1997/8 winter onwards. Stonechats continued regular breeding, with between eight and 25 pairs breeding and up to 20 wintering. The area holds most of the region's wintering Water Pipit population, which mainly frequent the remnant saltings by the concrete barges.

The tip expansion has led to more gulls, but although large numbers use the old ranges for roosting and bathing, they do not appear to have any significant impact on other species here. The flocks have attracted several scarce and vagrant gull species to the area, in turn generating interest among the birding community.

Conclusion

The RSPB bought 871 ha of the SSSI from the MoD in July 2000 thanks to generous support from the Cleanaway Havering Riverside Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Nature, RSPB members and other individuals. The RSPB is committed to working with local people and industries to manage the RSPB holding and other areas close to the Reserve for the benefit of wildlife and people. With this, the sustainable future for a large part of the site is now healthier than at any time in its recent history. This owes much to the considerable effort made by individuals and through FORM (Friends of Rainham Marsh) to campaign actively against its development. Credit should go too, to the RSPB for their work in raising the money for the acquisition of part of the site, both at a local level and nationally.

With secure funding and sympathetic management, the SSSI will become part of a major wildlife area, not only for London and Essex, but also for the whole of the southeast. Threats still remain and more land will be lost to the new Channel Tunnel railway. However, the site has potential to develop and attract an even greater diversity of breeding, wintering and passage species. Greater public involvement will assist the case for developing the site for eco-tourism, creating a balance between public participation and conservation. The RSPB, the London Borough of Havering (who have recently committed their part of the SSSI to nature conservation) and the other key partners, with the help of the next generation of local birders and general public, should take Rainham Marshes and its birds, successfully forward.

Visiting

The RSPB has ambitious plans for the Reserve including a classroom and small visitor centre at Purfleet, nature trails, hides and a riverside path. If you would like to visit the reserve or become more actively involved contact the RSPB at 42 Frederick Place, Brighton, BN1 4EA (01273 775333)

The western Rainham Marsh area, currently owned by Havering Council, may be viewed from Coldharbour and Ferry Lanes or from the top of the silt lagoon bank. The Havering Riverside Path (leaflets obtainable from Havering libraries) runs from the end of Ferry Lane for one and a half miles to Coldharbour Point, and gives good views of the River Thames, the stone barges and, for gull enthusiasts, the tip! There is a public car park, open until 7pm daily (or dusk whichever is earlier), overlooking the stone barges, which is accessed from Coldharbour Lane.

Aveley Bay is best accessed from Purfleet, and can be viewed from the greensward by the Royal public house, or from the river wall. The Thames-side footpath is projected to run along this section, linking Rainham Village with Purfleet and Grays.

There are C2C stations at Rainham and Purfleet, each about 10-15 minutes walk away. Trains run every half hour (hourly Sundays) to and from Grays and Fenchurch Street. Rainham Village is well served by buses (103, 165, 287 and 372) linking with Barking, Hornchurch, Gidea Park, Elm Park (for District Line) and Romford.

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APPENDIX I: Key species using the whole site, early 2000s

Monitoring and survey work on the birds of Rainham Marshes has been carried out since the late 1960s, and detailed breeding bird survey work has been undertaken since 1975, making it one of the longest running projects in Essex.

Data comes from the survey work by Andrew Henderson, (1998-99), plus extensive work undertaken on site by Mike Dennis (from 1974), assisted by Stuart Pickering (from 1986), with major contributions from Ken Barrett, Bill Varney, Dave Morrison, Peter West and Phil Street and since 2000, RSPB staff. Significant habitat changes have occurred since the mid 1990s. including a gradual drying of parts of the silt lagoons and the cessation of grazing for a time on Aveley and Wennington Marshes. The MoD kept much of Aveley and parts of Wennington Marshes either cropped short or with very minimal ground vegetation. These changes have particularly affected the breeding counts of certain passerines.

Grebes

Over 40 pairs of **Little Grebe** breed, scattered over the whole site, most alongside the silt lagoons or on Aveley Marsh. Only 1 – 2 pairs were in evidence prior to 1985, with no breeding in some years so the increase is real and is now one of the major sites for the species in Essex. Up to 45 birds were present during late August 2000 on the silt lagoons and Great Crested Grebes have summered in recent years.

Hérons and cormorants

A single pair of Heron has bred since 2000 part of the small but expanding population in Metropolitan Essex away from Walthamstow Reservoirs. Up to 18 occur at other times of the year – particularly in summer. Little Egrets increasingly visit and Cormorants are present all year on the River Thames with largest numbers between September and March. They often use the jetties off Frog Island as a daytime roost and may be joined here by the occasional Shag.

Wildfowl

Wintering **Shelduck** numbers using the Thames have been well maintained with up to 150 most years. Breeding now occurs mainly on Aveley Marsh, with broods

seen in Aveley Bay. Small numbers still breed on the silt lagoons and on the Cleanaway site.

Winter **Teal** numbers, usually still between 500 - 1000, are lower than a decade ago: the birds tend to be more scattered along the River Thames from Frog Island to Aveley Bay. Large numbers use the site during hard weather, when much of the surrounding wetland is frozen. Up to 300 use the flooded sections on Aveley Marsh, particularly during the autumn and early winter, while the reinstatement of the silt lagoons has encouraged a return to four-figure counts during autumn 2000. Between one and three pairs breed annually, one of the few regular sites in Essex.

Winter **Gadwall** numbers have increased greatly since 1997, with 200+ now regular on Aveley Marsh/Bay. Breeding is now annual, with at least 12 pairs in 2000, following sporadic attempts since the 1980s.

Winter **Shoveler** numbers have recovered, following a drop during the late 1980s. Up to 100 regularly occur, mainly on Aveley Marsh, with peak counts of over 200. At least ten pairs now breed on the site, with breeding much more regular than in the early 1980s. Rainham is now one of the main Essex breeding sites for the species.

Summering **Garganey** have become much more frequent during the past decade, the species bred successfully in 2001 (two broods) and the site is becoming one of its more regular summer locations in Essex.

Wigeon numbers (augmented during hard weather) have increased since 1997/8 with up to 300 now regular on Aveley Marsh/Bay, although counts in hard weather often exceed 500. Occasional birds have summered.

With all wintering duck there is a gradual build up from late August, reaching a first peak in October November. A second peak usually occurs early in the new year, particularly during hard weather when many inland sites are frozen. By the beginning of March birds begin to disperse for breeding. (Table 1)

Table 1 Maximum monthly counts (usually WeBs) of selected duck species 2000.

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Shelduck	78	110	120	12	25	52	67
Wigeon	200	220	110	100	260	120	250
Gadwall	215	195	77	100	225	110	120
Teal	350	300	100	300	1040	450	500
Mallard	104	55	58	87	166	128	185
Shoveler	75	70	45	226	250	225	175

Small numbers of **Pintail** still winter although much fewer than the three figure flocks present in the 1960s and 70s. This decline may be associated with the shift upstream of tubifex beds, which formed the main food source. Occasional pairs summer.

The breeding **Tufted Duck** population has increased during the last decade, with at least 14 pairs summering in 2000.

Summering **Pochard** have been regular in the past five years, with up to five pairs present. Broods were seen both in 2000 and 2001.

Raptors

Merlin and **Peregrine** have become regular visitors during the last ten years. Merlins are now regular in winter, commuting to Rainham from sites in the Ingrebourne and Rom valleys. Peregrines are seen throughout the year, is probably linked to the recent breeding attempts locally.

In contrast, **Hen Harriers**, so much a feature of the site in the 1980s are only seen occasionally on passage. The **Marsh Harrier** is now a regular summer visitor, with pairs or individuals often spending time on site during the breeding season. **Sparrowhawk** is an increased resident, with regular breeding since the early 1990s. **Kestrel** breeding numbers have recovered to about 4-5 pairs and concentrations of up to 18 occur during late summer.

Game-birds

Although the **Grey Partridge** population increased in the late 1980s-early 1990s, in the last three years they have reverted to 1970s' levels. Currently about 4-7 pairs breed, mostly on the vegetated Cleanaway site. **Pheasants** have increased markedly as a breeding species, but **Red-legged Partridges** no longer breed.

Breeding waders

Coot and **Moorhen** have increased as breeding species in the last decade, with current numbers the highest on record. Coot in particular benefits from raised water levels (as on Aveley Marsh). Until the mid-1990s, **Water Rail** was only a scarce winter visitor to the site, but it now breeds in small numbers, mainly on Wennington Marsh.

The breeding population of **Lapwing** has recovered to about 14 pairs, following a decline in the mid 1990s due to very dry conditions prevailing on most of the SSSI (Figure 2). Currently the majority are on Wennington and Aveley Marshes particularly in the areas either side of the disused firing butts. Until the mid-1990s, it was more widespread, with concentrations of breeding birds on Rainham, the silt lagoons and Wennington Marsh. Winter numbers have also increased in the last decade - up to 4,000 regularly in recent winters - most on Aveley Marsh. Small numbers of **Golden Plover** have recently wintered with the Lapwing flock – until the late 1990s they were only seen in numbers during severe winter weather.

Little Ringed and **Ringed Plover** both formerly breed on the silt lagoons, particularly around the pipe outlets. Both ceased to do so in the mid-1990s, but probably both attempted to breed on Aveley Marsh in 1998 and 1999, while 2-3 pairs of each bred on the Murex site in 1999-2001. They might benefit from gravel islands/scrapes on the RSPB reserve and on the Cleanaway country park site. Little Ringed Plover used to occur in nationally important numbers (90+) on passage on the silt lagoons. Likewise, Ringed Plover passage and wintering numbers often exceeded 400 on the lagoons, but numbers of both have declined with the lack of suitable habitat.

Redshank breeding numbers have also recovered from a low point in the mid-1990s, with currently about 16 - 18 pairs, mostly on Aveley Marsh. Until the early 1990s, it was more widespread, with notable concentrations on the silt

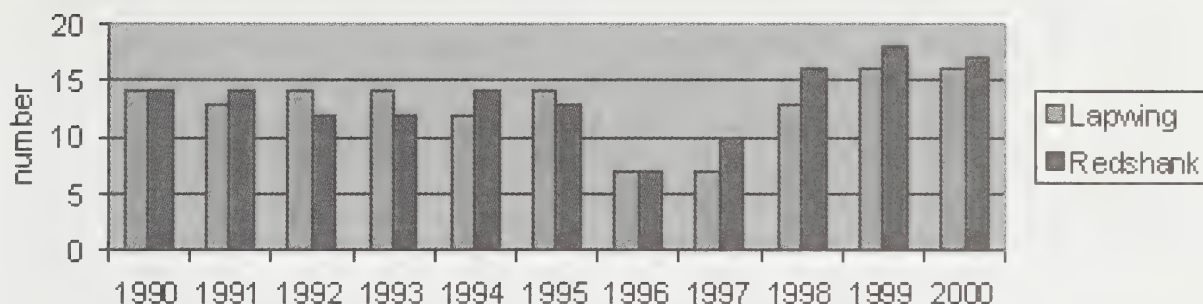


Figure 2. Lapwing and Redshank breeding territories 1990 – 2000

lagoons and on the southernmost parts of Wennington Marsh. Winter numbers are stable, with regular counts of 200-300 mainly in Aveley Bay and near the concrete barges.

Summering and probable breeding records of **Snipe** have become much more frequent during the last ten years, and at least 1-2 pairs now attempt to breed annually. Winter and passage numbers are much lower than a decade ago, but up to 80 can still occur in suitable areas.

Summering **Ruff** have been more frequent in the last decade, and breeding on the silt lagoons and on Aveley Marsh has been suspected on several occasions. Autumn passage numbers have recovered in the last two years, but winter counts of up to 100 no longer occur.

Other passage and wintering waders

Greenshank, **Green**, **Wood** and **Common Sandpipers** occurred in some numbers on the silt lagoons until the early 1990s, and the site was one of the best in the region for both the variety and quantity of waders on spring and particularly autumn passage (Table 2). Until 1998, most of the passage waders were increasingly confined to the last remaining pool on the Cleanaway site, but with the creation of the Aveley Marsh pools, most of the wader activity occurred there in 1998. The Cleanaway pool, until it disappeared under the landfill extension in late 2000, still attracted good numbers of Green Sandpipers in particular. In autumn 2000, most of the waders were found on the shallower margins of the newly reinstated silt lagoons. (Table 3).

Table 2. Maximum counts of selected waders on the silt lagoons, 1980-1990

Little Ringed Plover	90+
Ringed Plover	400
Little Stint	70+
Curlew Sandpiper	50+
Greenshank	53
Green Sandpiper	50+
Common Sandpiper	100+

Curlew and **Whimbrel** (along with 'wild' geese) have used Wennington Marsh when the sward has been cut/grazed low enough. Both **Black-tailed** and **Bar-tailed Godwits** are regular passage visitors. **Dunlin** numbers fluctuate, but

are much lower than they were in the 1970s and 1980s, particularly in winter. Winter counts on the mudflats and salting high tide roosts still occasionally exceed 1,000, but birds do not use the marsh or lagoons in anything like previous numbers. Both **Green** and **Common Sandpipers** winter in small numbers the former (up to seven) on the lagoons and tip pools and the latter (usually 2 – 3) along the Thames foreshore from Frog Island to Coldharbour Point.

Table 3. Maximum counts of selected waders on autumn passage, July to October 1993-2001

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Spotted Redshank	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	4	1
Greenshank	12	7	12	5	5	16	22	27	17
Green Sandpiper	25	35	45	20	20	25	25	30	55
Wood Sandpiper	1	3	2	1	1	2	8	3	6
Common Sandpiper	35	30	40	25	25	21	30	45	45
Ruff	2	1	1	0	0	23	3	25	6
Little Stint	3	0	0	2	0	30	3	4	10
Curlew Sandpiper	2	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	5

Gulls

The tip, particularly in winter attracts large numbers of gulls, with up to 20,000 **Black-headed**, 3,000 **Common**, 2,000 **Herring**, 1,500 **Lesser Black-backed** and 500 **Great Black-backed Gulls**. Among them have been scarcer species including **Iceland**, **Glaucous**, **Mediterranean** and **Caspian Gulls** all of which have become more regular in the last five years – possibly linked with the landfill expansion during that period. Late summer counts of **Yellow-legged Gulls** have exceed 100, and are among the highest in the country and have reflected the recent increase along Thames-side. (Table 4)

Table 4. Peak counts of Yellow-legged Gulls on autumn passage 1990-2001

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
12	220	200	130	150	50	45	35	60	85	160	105

Owls

The **Short-eared Owl** is a regular winter visitor from late October to April mainly using Rainham and Wennington Marshes and the older silt lagoons. Some of its former habitats have been lost to tip expansion or reintroduced grazing, but up to 13 were present during winter 1998-9. Its main food source is Short-tailed Field Voles, and wintering numbers tend to fluctuate on a 2-3 year cycle, according to the vole population (Table 4). Pairs have summered several times since the late 1980s. Up to two **Barn Owl** pairs used the site until the late 1990s, but most nest sites have now been removed (Murex and MoD buildings) and, in 1998, only occasional sightings were made. It might be encouraged by the provision of boxes, as enough feeding habitat remains. The diet of a pair in 1996 consisted of Bank and Short-tailed Field Voles and Common and Pygmy Shrews. One pair of **Little Owl** breeds in or around the targets, but up to four

pairs bred in the 1980s on Wennington Marsh. **Long-eared Owls** have bred on site more than once, and this owl has become more regular outside the breeding season in the last decade.

Table 5. Peak numbers of wintering Short-eared Owls, 1990/91 - 2001/02

90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02
7	12	7	4	7	8	7	3-4	13	8-10	4	2-3

Larks, Pipits and Wagtails

Both **Skylark** and **Meadow Pipit** have important local breeding populations, with up to 100 pairs of each until the early 1990s. However, Meadow Pipit numbers have declined nationally, and in line with this, the population is now only about 50 pairs (Figure 3). Significant numbers of birds of both species use the site during passage and hard winters. Up to 500 Meadow Pipits are recorded on autumn passage, with a peak in late September and early October.

The area around the concrete barges has become the main Essex site for wintering and passage **Water Pipits**. Small numbers also winter on the silt lagoons and on Aveley Marsh. There is usually a marked passage in March-April. (Dennis 1995). **Rock Pipits** winter along the River Thames - particularly in Aveley Bay and from the barges to Coldharbour Point with up to 30 present between late October and late March.

Breeding numbers of **Yellow Wagtail** have shown some recovery recently, but are still well below the 20 pairs recorded in the early 1980s. As many breed alongside the tip as breed on the marsh itself. Up to 50 occur on passage during autumn but again these numbers are well below those of the 1960s and 1970s.

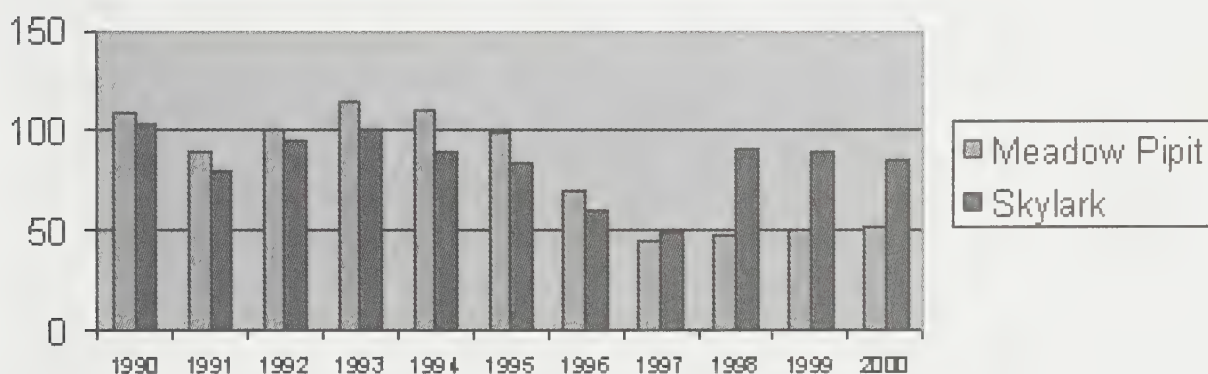


Figure 3. Meadow Pipit and Skylark territories, 1990-2000

Chats

Stonechat recolonised the site in 1969, and the population slowly built to about 15 pairs by 1984. Severe winter weather reduces overall numbers, but the survival rates at Rainham appear to be better than elsewhere, and have helped the species to spread into similar sites in Essex and London (Dennis 1996). It is still the main Essex site, with about 8-14 pairs (but 25 in 1990 and 16-17 in 1999-2000 – see Figure 4). Most now occur on Rainham Marsh, with smaller numbers

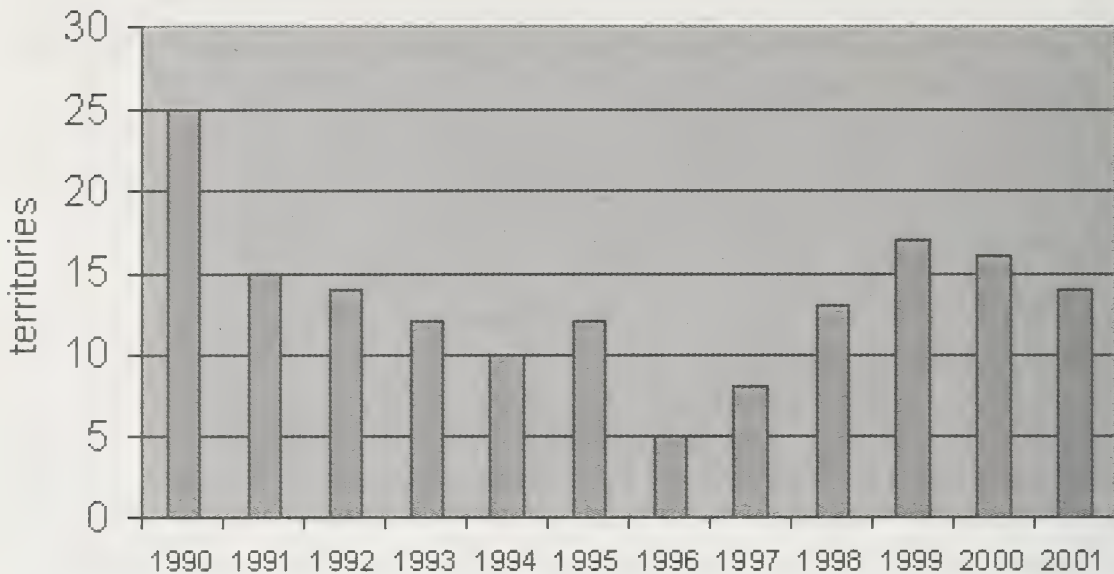


Figure 4. Stonechat territories, 1990-2001

on the silt lagoons and Wennington and Aveley Marshes. Many of their former sites (Cleanaway tip and along Coldharbour Lane) have been largely lost through landscaping. Wheatear pairs occasionally summer and breeding has been suspected more than once in recent years, including 2001. Whinchats, however no longer breed and have become scarce even on passage. Occasional Black Redstart pairs breed in the Murex site, but less regularly since the demolition of most of the site in the late 1990s.

Warblers

Reed and **Sedge Warblers** and **Whitethroat** have all increased in the last decade (Table 6). Reed Warblers now exceed 500 territories annually, the majority in linear reed beds along the main watercourses. Sedge Warbler, although tending to fluctuate in number, have also increased, colonising much of the rank vegetation on the older silt lagoons and on Rainham Marsh itself. Whitethroats have recovered to nearly 200 pairs from their 'crash' years (1969 and 1984), have taken advantage of the spread of tall vegetation and bushes in some areas - on the silt lagoons and along Ferry and Coldharbour Lanes for example. Some of this increase can be attributed to more intensive survey work since the mid 1990s (Henderson 1998 & 1999) the partial cessation of grazing in the mid 1990s and the departure of the army have increased the amount of rank vegetation and reedbeds across the whole of the SSSI. (Table 7). On the threatened Rainham Marsh part of the site (Figure 5) there have also been corresponding increases in the Water Vole population in the last ten years (Louise Wells pers comm.) and in the species richness and diversity of the aquatic invertebrate fauna since 1998 (Leeming 2001). In addition varying amounts of rather transitory habitat have been 'created' on the Cleanaway site. Small numbers of **Willow Warblers**, **Blackcaps**, **Lesser Whitethroats** and **Garden Warblers** breed along the Mar Dyke. **Chiffchaffs** have also increased as winter visitors with up to five present, mainly along the River Thames landfill area or in reed beds on the marsh itself.

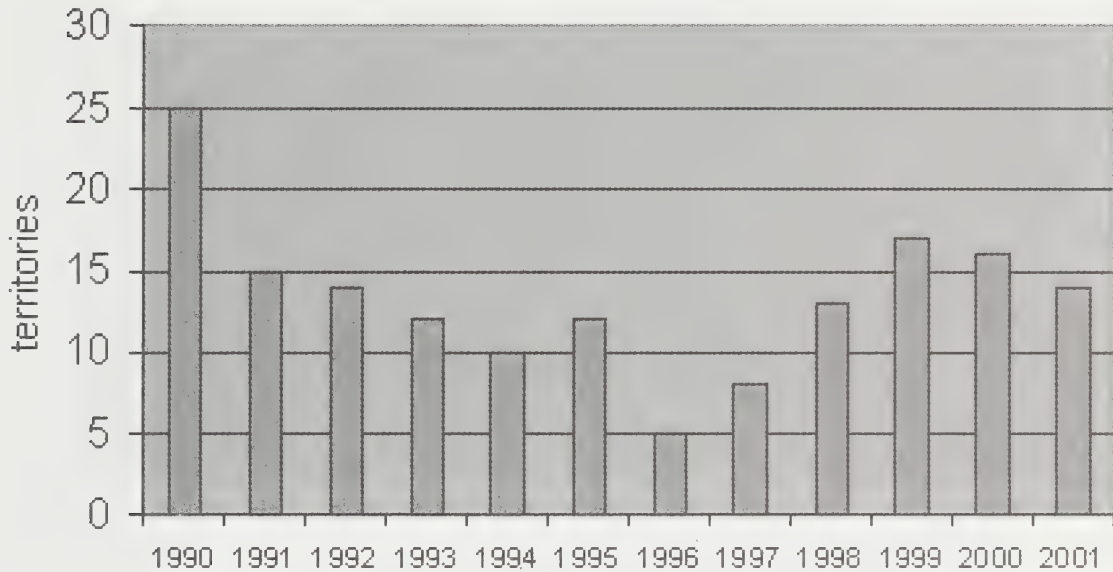


Figure 5. Increase of singing male Reed Warblers on the Rainham Marsh section of the site 1990 - 2000

Table 6. Sedge and Reed Warbler and Whitethroat territories, 1990-2001

	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01
Sedge Warbler	74	45	40	76	80	105	80	60	152	156	179	191
Reed Warbler	216	205	150	200	202	266	200	200	452	503	517	522
Whitethroat	57	45	40	63	65	106	70	80	142	164	193	207

Table 7. Distribution of Reed Warbler territories across the whole site 1998 - 2000

Year	1998	1999	2000
Rainham north	42	53	55
Rainham south	94	103	91
The Wedge	31	29	30
Silt Lagoons	63	84	94
Wennington Marsh	107	107	103
Enclosed saltings	16	25	24
Aveley Marsh	45	40	48
Aveley Bay	6	7	9
Outside SSSI	48	55	63
TOTAL	452	503	517

Finches and Buntings

Small numbers of **Greenfinch**, **Chaffinch**, **Linnet** and **Goldfinch** are resident. About 100 pairs of **Reed Bunting** breed, recovering from low numbers in the mid 1990s (see Figure 6) but **Corn Buntings** have all but disappeared as a breeding species, with most of the singing birds now on the rough grassland on the tip. Winter finch and bunting flocks have declined since the mid-1990s, probably linked to the cessation of hay being used as winter-feed. The largest recent autumn-winter flocks are: Greenfinch 100+; Linnet 350-400; Goldfinch 250-300; Reed Bunting 100: winter Corn Bunting flocks now rarely exceed 50. Occasional

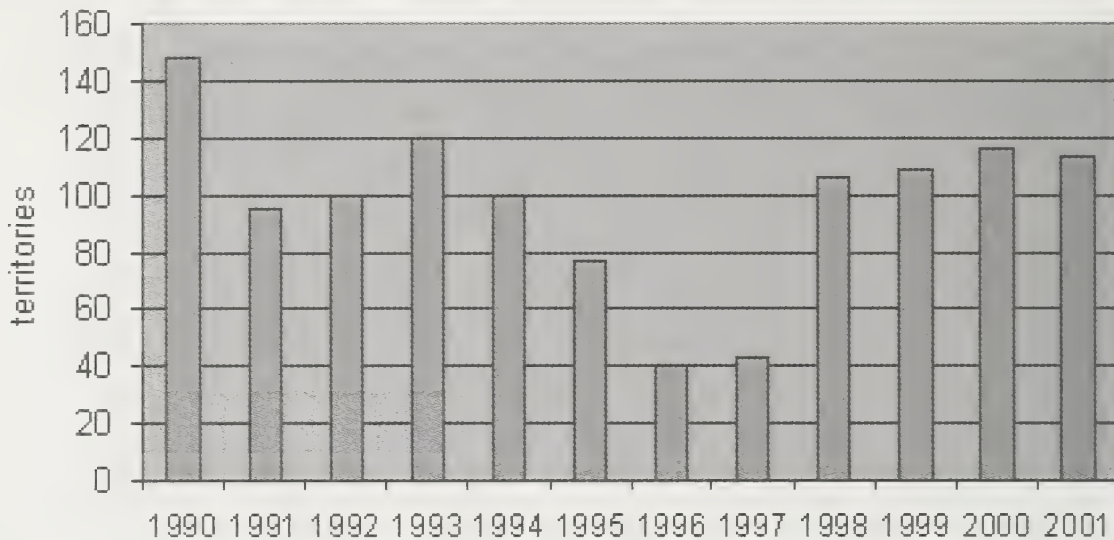


Figure 6. Reed Bunting territories 1990 – 2001

Snow and **Lapland Buntings** are seen on the vegetated tip or along the River Thames.

APPENDIX II: Breeding birds of Rainham Marshes, 1986-2000

This gives a snapshot of the status of breeding birds at Rainham Marshes in the four years: 1986, 1990, 1995 and 2000. In each of these years, intensive fieldwork was undertaken in response to various planning applications, usually on the SSSI. The fieldwork was undertaken by; Mike Dennis, Andrew Henderson, Stuart Pickering and Norman Inuguis.

Pairs/territories (p-present)

	1986	1990	1995	2000
Little Grebe	0	2	9	36
Great Crested Grebe	0	0	0	p
Grey Heron	0	1	0	1
Mute Swan	0	0	1	3
Greylag Goose	0	0	0	1-2
Canada Goose	0	0	1	6
Shelduck	4	7	4	30
Wigeon	0	0	0	0-1
Gadwall	0	0	0	12
Teal	2	2	2	2-3
Mallard	16	19	12	70+
Pintail	0	0	0	0
Garganey	0	0	0	1
Shoveler	1	2	1	10
Pochard	0	0	0	2
Tufted Duck	1	3	4	14
Marsh Harrier	0	p	1	p.
Sparrowhawk	0	0	1	2
Kestrel	6	6	4	5

Hobby	0	0	0	1
Red-legged Partridge	2	1	0	0
Grey Partridge	6	11	4	6
Pheasant	8	16	7	50
Water Rail	0	0	0	3
Moorhen	11	24	27	100+
Coot	0	2	20	60+
Oystercatcher	0	1	1	4
Little Ringed Plover	2	3	2	5
Ringed Plover	5	4	2	3
Lapwing	16	14	14	16
Ruff	0	0	0	0
Snipe	0	1	p	1
Redshank	12	14	13	16-17
Common Tern	0	0	0	p
Feral Pigeon	p	p	p.	p
Stock Dove	5	4	1	6
Woodpigeon	5	12	8	15
Collared Dove	4	6	3	9-10
Turtle Dove	2	5	3	1
Cuckoo	0	6	6	6
Barn Owl	0	p	2	p
Little Owl	1	1	0	?
Long-eared Owl	0	1	0	?
Short-eared Owl	1	p	0	1
Green Woodpecker	0	0	0	1-2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	0	1
Skylark	116	103	72	86
Swallow	5	8	4	4-5
House Martin	0	2	p	2-3?
Meadow Pipit	95	109	87	52
Yellow Wagtail	20	15	4	4-5
Grey Wagtail	0	1	0	1
Pied Wagtail	6	8	3	6
Wren	13	26	15	40
Dunnock	5	17	8	25-30
Robin	6	9	10	12-14
Black Redstart	0	3	0	1?
Whinchat	2	1	1	0
Stonechat	9	25	11	16
Wheatear	0	0	0	0
Blackbird	20	21	10	14
Song Thrush	7	7	5	7
Mistle Thrush	1	1	2	2
Grasshopper Warbler	0	0	0	6
Sedge Warbler	29	74	89	179
Reed Warbler	212	216	266	517
Lesser Whitethroat	1	2	2	1
Whitethroat	15	57	78	193
Garden Warbler	1	1	0	2

Blackcap	2	2	2	10
Chiffchaff	0	0	0	0
Willow Warbler	1	2	2	2
Spotted Flycatcher	1	0	0	0
Bearded Tit	0	0	1	0
Long-tailed Tit	0	0	0	3-4
Blue Tit	5	11	6	12
Great Tit	2	5	4	6
Jay	0	0	1	1
Magpie	5	10	6	12
Jackdaw	0	2	1	2-3
Carrion Crow	5	5	4	10
Starling	p	p	p	p
House Sparrow	p	p	p	p
Tree Sparrow	0	0	0	0
Chaffinch	1	2	0	3
Greenfinch	6	5	2	6-7
Goldfinch	7	35	24	20
Linnet	22	31	20	25
Bullfinch	0	0	0	1
Yellowhammer	1	0	0	0
Reed Bunting	154	148	77	116
Corn Bunting	8	5	1	0

Pairs/territories (p-present)

APPENDIX III: Rainham Marshes (Inner Thames SSSI) Checklist, 1960-2001

Compiled from personal observations and reference to Essex and London Bird Reports, 1960- 2001 - species on the BOU list, categories A, B and C (including some recent additions for 2002 and early 2003)

B = current breeding species

P = passage (spring and autumn)

fb = breeding formerly or occasionally

T = mainly recorded on the River Thames

R = resident

v = vagrant, fewer than five records

RN = non-breeding resident

V = vagrant, more than five records,
less than annual

W = winter visitor

Distinctive sub-species are shown in brackets.

Red-throated Diver VT	Red-breasted Merganser VT
Black-throated Diver VT	Goosander VT
Little Grebe B	Ruddy Duck V
Great Crested Grebe Tfb	Marsh Harrier P
Red-necked Grebe VT	Hen Harrier V
Slavonian Grebe VT	Montagu's Harrier v
Black-necked Grebe v	Sparrowhawk B
Fulmar vT	Common Buzzard v
Manx Shearwater vT	Rough-legged Buzzard v
Leach's Petrel VT	Osprey v
Storm Petrel vT	Lesser Kestrel v
Gannet vT	Kestrel B
Cormorant RN	Red-footed Falcon v
Shag WT	Merlin WP
Little Egret RNP	Hobby B
Grey Heron B	Peregrine PW
Purple Heron v	Red-legged Partridge fb
Spoonbill v	Grey Partridge B
Mute Swan B	Quail v
Bewicks Swan v	Pheasant B
Whooper Swan V	Water Rail BW
Pink-footed Goose v	Corncrake (2003 record – pending)
White-fronted Goose V	Moorhen B
Greylag Goose B	Coot B
Canada Goose B	Crane v
Barnacle Goose v	Oystercatcher B
Brent Goose WP	Black-winged Stilt v
(Black Brant v)	Avocet P
Egyptian Goose v	Stone Curlew v
Ruddy Shelduck V	Little Ringed Plover BP
Shelduck BW	Ringed Plover BWP
Mandarin v	Kentish Plover v
Wigeon fbW	Golden Plover V
Gadwall BW	Grey Plover PW
Teal BW	Lapwing BWP
Green winged Teal v	Knot V
Mallard B	Sanderling P
Pintail fb	Western Sandpiper v
Garganey B	Little Stint P
Shoveler BW	Temminck's Stint V
Pochard B	Baird's Sandpiper v
Tufted Duck B	Pectoral Sandpiper V
Scaup V	Curlew Sandpiper P
Eider vT	Purple Sandpiper vT
Long-tailed Duck vT	Dunlin PW
Common Scoter PT	Buff-breasted Sandpiper v
Goldeneye V	Ruff fbP
Smew V	Jack Snipe PW

Snipe BPW	Ring necked Parakeet v
Woodcock V	Cuckoo B
Black-tailed Godwit P	Barn Owl B
Bar-tailed Godwit P	Little Owl B
Whimbrel P	Long-eared Owl fb
Curlew WP	Short-eared Owl PWfb
Spotted Redshank P	Swift P
Redshank BW	Kingfisher B
Marsh Sandpiper v	Hoopoe v
Greenshank P	Green Woodpecker B
Lesser Yellowlegs v	Great Spotted Woodpecker B
Solitary Sandpiper v	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker v
Green Sandpiper PW	Woodlark v
Wood Sandpiper P	Skylark BPWR
Common Sandpiper PW	Shore Lark v
Turnstone PT	Sand Martin P
Red-necked Phalarope v	Swallow BP
Grey Phalarope v	House Martin fbP
Pomarine Skua vT	Tree Pipit P
Arctic Skua VT	Meadow Pipit BPW
Great Skua vT	Red-throated Pipit v
Mediterranean Gull PW	Rock Pipit PWT
Little Gull P	Water Pipit PWT
Sabine's Gull VT	Yellow Wagtail BP
Black-headed Gull RN	(Blue-headed Wagtail P)
Ring-billed Gull V	Grey Wagtail BWP
Common Gull PW	Pied Wagtail BWP
Lesser Black-backed Gull RN	(White Wagtail) P
Herring Gull RN	Wren RB
(Yellow-legged Gull PW)	Dunnock BR
(Caspian Gull PW)	Robin BR
Iceland Gull V	Bluethroat (white-spotted) v
(Kumlien's Gull v)	Black Redstart fbWP
Glaucous Gull W	Redstart P
Great Black-backed Gull PW	Whinchat fbP
Kittiwake PT	Stonechat RBWP
Sandwich Tern PT	Wheatear fbP
Common Tern BP	Ring Ouzel P
Arctic Tern PT	Blackbird RB
Little Tern V	Fieldfare PW
Black Tern PT	Song Thrush RB
Guillemot VT	Redwing PW
Razorbill vT	Mistle Thrush RB
Rock (Feral) Pigeon B	Grasshopper Warbler B
Stock Dove B	Aquatic Warbler v
Woodpigeon B	Sedge Warbler B
Collared Dove B	Marsh Warbler b
Turtle Dove B	Reed Warbler B

Dartford Warbler V	Tree Sparrow fbV
Lesser Whitethroat B	Chaffinch RBW
Whitethroat B	Brambling WP
Garden Warbler B	Greenfinch RBWP
Blackcap B	Goldfinch RBWP
Wood Warbler v	Siskin P
Chiffchaff fbPW	Linnet RBWP
Willow Warbler BP	Twite V
Goldcrest P	Lesser Redpoll V
Spotted Flycatcher fbP	Bullfinch R
Pied Flycatcher v	Lapland Bunting V
Bearded Tit fb	Snow Bunting V
Long-tailed Tit RB	Yellowhammer fbW
Willow Tit v	Reed Bunting RBW
Blue Tit RB	Corn Bunting fbW
Great Tit RB	Escapes
Red-backed Shrike (2002 record)	Greater Flamingo
Jay RB	Black Swan
Magpie RB	Muscovy Duck
Jackdaw RBW	Australian Shelduck
Rook W	Goshawk
Carrion Crow RBW	Spur-winged Plover
Hooded Crow v	Cockatiel
Starling RBW	Budgerigar
House Sparrow RBW	

*M. K. Dennis, 173, Collier Row Lane, Romford, Essex RM5 3ED
 March 1999 (revised October 2001 February/May 2002. June/July 2003)*

Checklist of Birds of the London Area

A full checklist of the birds of the London Area has appeared in recent LBRs and we intend to keep this going on an annual basis. **In 2000 there were two additions to the London List: Franklin's Gull and Radde's Warbler**, which now brings the total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times to 355, of which 342 have been recorded since 1900. It should be noted that although the LBR lists Yellow-legged Gull and Caspian Gull separately, neither of these two forms of Herring Gull have been 'split' by the BOU and so are not counted in this checklist.

The 13 species marked with a * in the checklist were recorded in the London Area at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. Several other species on the British list, particularly wildfowl, have been recorded in the London Area, but only as known or presumed escapes from captivity. Additions and corrections to Osborne (1980) are generally based on the annual London Bird Reports (see especially Hardwick & Self 1992 and the editorial introductions to LBRs: 56 and 57) and reports in *Birding World*, *British Birds* and *Ibis*.

The London Area is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The first number for each species is its EURING species number, as now used in the LBR.

0002	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0003	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0004	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0006	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0007	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0009	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0010	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0011	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0012	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0020	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0046	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0046	Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0048	Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0052	European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0055	Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0071	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0072	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0080	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0095	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0098	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0104	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0108	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0111	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0119	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0121	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0122	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

0124	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0131	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0134	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0136	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0144	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0152	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0153	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0154	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0157	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0158	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0159	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0161	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0166	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0167	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0168	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0169	Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0170	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0173	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0178	Mandarin	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0179	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0180	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0182	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0184	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0184.1	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0186	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0189	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0191	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0192	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0194	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0196	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0198	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0200	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0202	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0203	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0204	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0205	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0206	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0212	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0213	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0215	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0218	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0220	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0221	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0223	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0225	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0231	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0238	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0239	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

0243	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0260	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0261	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0263	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0267	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0269	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0287	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0290	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0296	Golden Eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0301	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0303	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0304	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0307	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0309	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0310	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0318	Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0320	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0358	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0367	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0370	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0394	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0407	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0408	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0410	Little Crake*	<i>Porzana parva</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0410	Baillon's Crake*	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0421	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0424	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0429	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0433	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0446	Great Bustard*	<i>Otis tarda</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0450	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0455	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0456	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0459	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0464	Cream-coloured Courser*	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0465	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0469	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0470	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0474	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0477	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0482	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0483	American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0484	Pacific Golden Plover*	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0485	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0486	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0491	Sociable Plover	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0493	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0496	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

0497	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0499	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0501	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0502	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0505	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0506	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0507	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0508	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0509	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0510	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0512	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0514	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0516	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0517	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0518	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0519	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0520	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0527	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0529	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0532	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0534	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0538	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0541	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0545	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0546	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0547	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0548	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0551	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0552	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0553	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0554	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0556	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0557	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0561	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0563	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0564	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0565	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0566	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0567	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0568	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0569	Great Skua	<i>Catharacta skua</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0575	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0577	Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0578	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0579	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0581	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0582	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0589	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

0590	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0591	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0592	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0598	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0599	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0600	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0602	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0605	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0606	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0611	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0614	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0615	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0616	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0622	Bridled Tern	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0623	Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0624	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0626	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0627	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0628	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0634	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0636	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0647	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0654	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0663	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0665	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0668	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0670	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0684	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0687	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0712	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0724	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0728	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0735	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0739	Scops Owl*	<i>Otus scops</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0749	Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiaca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0757	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0761	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0767	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0768	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0770	Tengmalm's Owl*	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0778	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0786	Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0795	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0798	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0831	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0840	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0841	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0846	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

0848	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0856	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0876	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0887	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0968	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0972	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0974	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0976	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0978	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0981	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0992	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
0995	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1001	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1002	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1005	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1008	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1009	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1011	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1012	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1014	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1015	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1017	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1018	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1019	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1020	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1048	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1050	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1066	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1084	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1094	Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1099	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1104	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1106	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1121	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1122	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1137	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1139	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1146	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1148	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1149	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1176	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1186	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1187	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1197	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1198	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1200	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1201	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1202	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1220	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1236	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1238	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1242	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1243	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1247	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1250	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1251	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1259	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1260	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1262	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1265	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1267	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1273	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1274	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1275	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1276	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1277	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1298	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1300	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1301	Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1308	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1311	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1311.1	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1312	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1314	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1315	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1335	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1343	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1349	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1364	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1437	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1440	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1442	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1454	Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1461	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1462	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1464	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1479	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1486	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1487	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1490	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1508	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1514	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1515	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1519	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1520	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1523	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1539	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1549	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1557	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1560	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1563	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1567	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1567.1	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1572	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1582	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1584	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1591	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1598	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1636	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1638	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1640	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1649	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1653	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1654	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1660	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1662	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1663	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1663.1	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1664	Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1665	Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1666	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1668	Parrot Crossbill*	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1679	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1699	Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1710	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1717	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1847	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1850	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1856	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1857	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1858	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1866	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1873	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1874	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1877	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1881	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1882	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, e.g. out of season migrants.

This guide does not apply to Inner London where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

KEY:

- A = all records.
- D = full description required (form available from recorders).
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance etc., form available from recorders)
- MM = dated monthly maxima for frequently visited sites and all records from elsewhere subject to >n.
- >n = minimum count required, subject to other categories.
- B = all breeding records subject to >n.
- T = all territory counts as well as definite breeding records.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- F&L = first and last dates.
- P = passage flocks and movements.
- W = all wintering records.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| All divers (A, N) | Bewick's/Whooper Swans (A, N) |
| Little/Great Crested Grebe (MM, B) | Bean/Pink-footed Goose (A, D) |
| Other grebes (A) | White-fronted Goose (A) |
| All petrels (A, D) | Greylag Goose (MM, B) |
| All shearwaters/Fulmar (A, D) | Barnacle/Brent/Egyptian Goose (A) |
| Gannet (A, N) | Canada Goose (MM, >200, B) |
| Cormorant (MM, B) | Shelduck (MM, S) |
| Shag (A) | [Ruddy Shelduck (A)] |
| Bittern (A) | Mandarin/Wigeon (A) |
| Grey Heron (MM, >15, B) | American Wigeon (A, D) |
| Little Egret (A) | Gadwall/Teal (MM, S) |
| Purple/Night Heron (A, D) | Mallard (MM, >200, B) |
| White Stork/Spoonbill (A, D) | Pintail/Garganey (A) |
| Mute Swan (MM, >30, B) | Shoveler (MM, S) |

- Red-crested Pochard (A)
 Pochard (MM, >10, S)
 Ring-necked Duck (A, D)
 Tufted Duck (MM, >20, B)
 Scaup (A)
 Eider/Long-tailed Duck (A, N)
 Common Scoter (A)
 Velvet Scoter (A, D)
 Goldeneye/Smew (A)
 Red-b. Merganser/Goosander (A)
 Ruddy Duck (MM, B)
 Red Kite (A, N)
 Marsh Harrier (A)
 Hen/Montagu's Harrier (A, D)
 Goshawk (A, D)
 Sparrowhawk (A)
 Common Buzzard (A)
 Honey/Rough-legged Buzzard (A, D)
 Osprey (A, N)
 Kestrel (>5, B)
 Merlin (A, N)
 Hobby/Peregrine (A)
 All partridges (>5, S)
 Quail (A, D)
 Pheasant (>20, B)
 Water Rail (A)
 Spotted Crake/Corncrake (A, D)
 Moorhen/Coot (MM, >20, B>5)
 Crane (A, D)
 Oystercatcher/Avocet (A)
 Stone-curlew (A, D)
 Little Ringed Plover/Ringed Plover (A)
 Kentish Plover/Dotterel (A, D)
 Golden/Grey Plover (A)
 Lapwing (P, >10, B)
 Knot/Sanderling/Little Stint(A)
 Temminck's Stint (A, D)
 Curlew Sandpiper (A)
 Pectoral/Purple Sandpiper (A, D)
 Dunlin (MM, >5, S)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (A, D)
- Ruff/Woodcock/Jack Snipe(A)
 Snipe (MM, >3, S)
 All godwits/Whimbrel/Curlew(A)
 Spotted Redshank (A)
 Redshank (MM, >5, S)
 Greenshank (A)
 Green/Wood/Common Sandpiper (A)
 Turnstone (A)
 All phalaropes (A, D)
 All skuas (A, D)
 Mediterranean/Little Gull (A)
 Sabine's Gull (A, D)
 Black-headed Gull (MM, >50)
 Ring-billed Gull (A, D)
 Common Gull (MM, >10)
 LBB/Herring Gull/ (MM, >10, B)
 Yellow-legged Gull (A)
 Caspian/Iceland/Glaucous Gull (A,D)
 Great Black-backed Gull (MM, >10)
 Kittiwake (A)
 Sandwich Tern (A)
 Roseate Tern (A, D)
 Common Tern (MM, >5, B, F&L)
 Arctic/Little/Black Tern (A)
 All auks (A, D)
 Feral Rock Dove (>100)
 Stock Dove (>10, B)
 Woodpigeon (>100, B, P)
 Collared Dove (>20, B)
 Turtle Dove (A)
 Ring-necked Parakeet (A)
 Cuckoo (S, P, F&L)
 All owls (A)
 Nightjar (A, N)
 Swift (>100, B, P, F&L)
 Kingfisher (T)
 Bee-eater/Hoopoe/Wryneck(A, D)
 All woodpeckers (T)
 Short-toed Lark/Shore Lark (A, D)
 Woodlark (A, D away from breeding sites)

- Skylark (>25, B, P)
 Sand Martin (>20, B, F&L, P)
 Swallow/House Martin (>50, B, F&L P)
 Tawny/Richard's Pipits (A, D)
 Tree Pipit (A)
 Meadow Pipit (>25, B, P)
 Rock/Water Pipit (A)
 Yellow Wagtail (A)
 Grey Wagtail (MM, S)
 Pied Wagtail (>5, B)
 Waxwing (A, N)
 Dipper (A, D)
 Wren/Dunnock/Robin (>10, T)
 Nightingale (A)
 Bluethroat (A, D)
 Black Redstart/Redstart/Whinchat (A)
 Stonechat/Wheatear/Ring Ouzel (A)
 Blackbird (>20, P, T)
 Fieldfare/Redwing (>20, F&L, P)
 Song/Mistle Thrush (>10, P, T)
 Cetti's/Aquatic/Marsh Warbler (A, D)
 Grasshopper Warbler (A)
 Sedge/Reed Warbler (>5, F&L, T)
 Hippolais warblers (A, D)
 Barred Warbler (A, D)
 Dartford Warbler (A, N)
 Lesser Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)
 Common Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)
 Garden Warbler (>5, F&L, T)
 Blackcap (>10, F&L, T, W)
 Pallas's/Yellow-browed Warbler (A, D)
 Wood Warbler (A)
 Chiffchaff (>10, F&L, T, W)
 Willow Warbler (>10, F&L, T)
 Goldcrest (>5, T)
 Firecrest (A)
 Spotted/Pied Flycatcher (A)
 Red-breasted Flycatcher (A, D)
 Bearded Tit (A)
 Long-tailed Tit (>20, T)
 Marsh/Willow Tit (A)
 Coal/Blue/Great Tit (>20, T)
 Nuthatch/Treecreeper (T)
 Golden Oriole (A, D)
 All shrikes (A, D)
 Jay/Magpie (>15, B>5, P)
 Jackdaw/Rook (>20, B)
 Carrion Crow (>50, B>5)
 Raven (A, D)
 Starling (>100, B>10)
 Rose-coloured Starling (A, D)
 House Sparrow (>20, B>5)
 Tree Sparrow (A)
 Chaffinch (>50, B, P)
 Brambling (A)
 Serin (A, D)
 Greenfinch/Goldfinch (>30, B, P)
 Siskin (>5, S)
 Linnet (>20, B, P)
 Twite (A, D)
 Lesser Redpoll (>5, S)
 Mealy Redpoll (A, N)
 Crossbill (A)
 Common Rosefinch (A, D)
 Bullfinch (>5, B)
 Hawfinch (A)
 Lapland Bunting (A, D)
 Snow Bunting (A, N)
 Yellowhammer (>10, T)
 Ortolan/Cirl Bunting (A, D)
 Reed Bunting (>10, T, P)
 Little Bunting (A, D)
 Corn Bunting (>5, T)

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Editor on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required. In difficult cases, eg Aythya hybrids, supporting notes may be required.

Sub-species

All records of sub-species/races are required. In some cases notes are required, eg White Wagtail in autumn and races of Yellow Wagtail other than M.f. flavissima. In many other instances notes may not be required but in difficult cases please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular sub-species/race. Such cases could be:

Greenland Wheatear
Races of Chiffchaff
Northern Willow Warbler
Hooded Crow
Northern Bullfinch

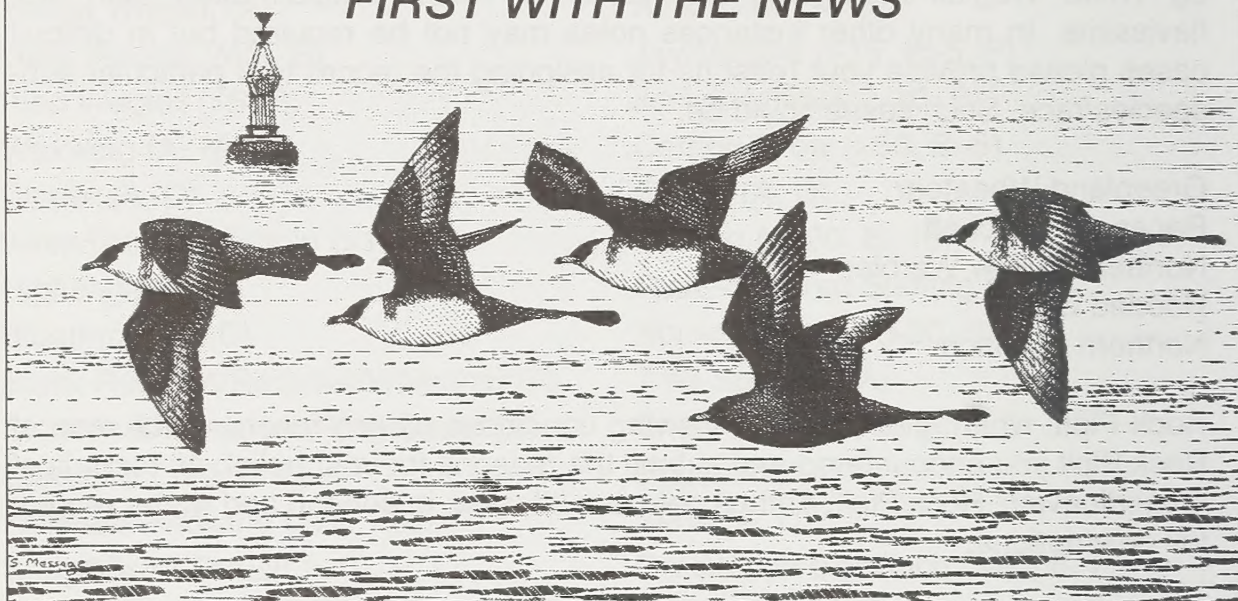
Rock Pipit: when given suitable viewing conditions please record which race of Rock Pipit you encountered and submit the reasons for your belief. All records of 'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit, *Anthus petrosus littoralis*, in autumn and winter require full descriptions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their records - without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual London Bird Report.

Andrew Self, on behalf of the Records Committee, May 2004.

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Notes for Contributors

The Editor welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired. Papers should be submitted to the Papers Editor.

Manuscripts Texts should be submitted on a PC compatible computer diskette in a Microsoft Word or Works word processor file along with a hardcopy.

Style English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital. Their use in the text is optional if listed in the *Birdwatch Checklist of the Birds of the Western Palaearctic*. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2001; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Quotation marks, if used, should be double. Any references to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics.

References should adopt the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

Illustrations Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Artwork should not be prepared until size of reproduction is known and the Editor has been consulted.

Photographs Prints must allow sufficient background for masking and block-making. If sent by post they must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage. Digital photos can be submitted on a CDROM.

Proofs Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage.

Reprints Up to 2 free reprints of papers (but not short notes or reviews) are provided if ordered by authors in advance. Larger quantities are charged at cost.

All papers for publication should be submitted to the Papers Editor, Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, Stoke Newington, London N16 7BP, email: mike@trierm.freeseve.co.uk.

Illustrations and photographs should be submitted to the Co-ordinating Editor, Andrew Self, 16 Harp Island Close, Neasden, London NW10 0DF

London Bird Report for 2000

edited by Andrew Self

NUMBER 65

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